



Australian Bureau of Statistics

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OVERSEAS ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES, AUSTRALIA AUGUST 1991

MAIN FEATURES

The total number of overseas movements in August 1991 was 783,000, 3 per cent more than in August 1990 (763,600). There were 388,000 arrivals (2% more than in August 1990) and 395,000 departures (3% more than in August 1990).

Permanent and long-term movement In August 1991:

- 10,900 settlers arrived in Australia, 4 per cent less than in August 1990. Settler arrivals from Northeast Asia continued to increase with 2,650 recorded in August 1991 (an increase of 20% when compared with August 1990). This region, which includes Hong Kong, China, Mongolia, Taiwan, Japan and Korea, is now contributing the largest number of settlers.
- 2,550 permanent departures were recorded, marginally less than in August 1990.
- Long-term visitor arrivals (4,080) were 8 per cent higher than August 1990 (3,770).
- Australian residents departing long-term (6,500) increased 3 per cent compared with August 1990 (6,300).

Arrivals of overseas visitors for short-term visits In August 1991:

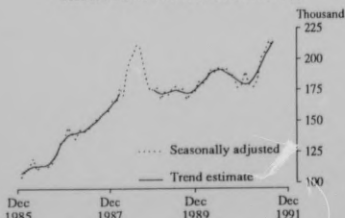
- The number of overseas visitor arrivals was 199,300, 12 per cent more than in August 1990 (178,200). In seasonally adjusted terms, visitor arrivals were 3 per cent less than in July 1991. The trend estimate of visitor arrivals continues to show strong growth since January 1991.
- The major source countries were: New Zealand with 55,900 (28% of total), Japan with 44,900 (23%), the U.S.A. with 28,700 (14%) and the United Kingdom with 12,400 (6%). These four major source countries accounted for 71 per cent of all visitor arrivals. When compared with August 1990, the number of visitors increased from the U.S.A. (46%), New Zealand (24%) and Japan (7%) while visitors from the United Kingdom decreased by 22 per cent. The number of visitors arriving from New Zealand is the highest since August 1988 when there were 64,800 arrivals making up 33 per cent of the total visitor arrivals.

- Visitors from Hong Kong (6,000) contributed 3 per cent of total short-term visitors and increased 78 per cent compared with August 1990 (3,400). The number of visitors from Korea (3,000) and Taiwan (2,900), although small compared with the number from the main source countries, also showed large increases. Overall, visitors from North East Asia increased by 19 per cent.
- The main purposes for visiting Australia remain 'holiday' (63%) and 'visiting relatives' (18%). The proportion of visitors arriving for the purpose of 'holiday' increased 25 per cent compared with August 1990. However, the number arriving to 'attend conventions' for the year to August 1991 is 36 per cent higher than 1990.
- Visitors intending to stay for less than 1 week increased by 25 per cent and those staying for 1 week and less than 2 weeks increased by 16 per cent compared with August 1990. Visitors intending to stay for less than 2 weeks accounted for 59 per cent of total short-term visitor arrivals.

Departures of Australian residents for short-term trips abroad In August 1991:

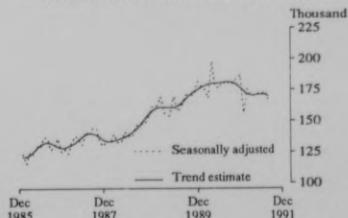
- 168,000 Australian residents departed for short-term visits overseas, a decrease of 9 per cent compared with August 1990. In seasonally adjusted terms the number of departures fell 4 per cent compared with July 1991.
- The most popular destinations were: New Zealand with 26,600 (16% of total), the U.S.A. with 23,900 (14%), the United Kingdom with 20,100 (12%) and Indonesia with 15,800 (9%). When compared with August 1990, resident departures to New Zealand and Indonesia increased 14 and 10 per cent respectively while departures to the United Kingdom and the U.S.A. decreased 35 and 3 per cent respectively.
- Departures for 'holidays' (90,100) decreased 11 per cent compared with August 1990 (101,700) which accounted for 71 per cent of the total resident departure decrease compared with August 1990.
- Departures for 'employment' rose 12 per cent from 3,900 in 1990 to 4,300 in 1991.

SHORT-TERM VISITOR ARRIVALS (a)



(a) Refer to paragraph 20 of the Explanatory Notes. (b) Refer to paragraph 21 of the Explanatory Notes.

SHORT-TERM RESIDENT DEPARTURES (b)



INQUIRIES

- for further information about statistics in this publication and the availability of related unpublished statistics, contact Robert Chitnall on Canberra (06) 252 6671 or any ABS State office.
- for information about other ABS statistics and services please refer to the back page of this publication.

TABLE 1. TOTAL MOVEMENT — ARRIVALS: CATEGORY OF MOVEMENT

Period	Permanent arrivals Settlers	Long-term arrivals		Total permanent and long-term arrivals	Short-term arrivals (a)			Total arrivals (a)
		Australian residents	Overseas visitors		Australian residents	Overseas visitors (Seasonally adjusted)	Overseas visitors (Trend estimate b)	
Year ended 31 December —								
1988	151,550	54,990	47,330	253,860	1,637,900	2,249,300	..	4,141,100
1989	131,060	53,440	53,540	238,050	1,912,700	2,080,300	..	4,231,000
1990	121,560	56,370	56,120	234,050	2,109,300	2,214,900	..	4,558,300
1990 —								
June	10,100	4,080	3,360	17,540	149,700	157,300	192,900	324,600
July	10,390	4,790	5,650	20,830	211,600	185,400	190,700	417,800
August	11,320	4,440	3,770	19,540	182,000	178,200	193,300	379,700
September	10,390	4,420	3,530	18,340	205,800	162,700	185,800	386,900
October	9,990	4,570	3,750	18,300	230,800	190,600	187,800	439,700
November	10,650	4,960	3,040	18,650	157,200	198,600	176,600	374,400
December	10,700	9,510	3,050	23,260	123,000	253,100	179,600	399,400
1991 —								
January	9,680	6,250	8,740	24,670	260,000	177,400	189,600	462,100
February	9,690	4,430	10,250	24,370	133,100	190,600	178,100	401,800
March	10,890	4,480	4,070	19,450	141,300	189,200	177,300	350,000
April	8,050	3,270	3,590	14,900	124,000	168,000	182,800	306,900
May	9,410	3,510	2,860	15,780	131,600	161,400	201,300	308,800
June	10,530	4,440	3,350	18,320	151,700	172,200	206,300	342,200
July	11,290	5,030	6,140	22,450	196,800	208,300	215,000	427,600
August	10,900	4,600	4,080	19,580	169,100	199,300	209,300	388,000

(a) Figures for short-term movement are largely based on a sample and are subject to sampling error. See Paragraph 10 of the Explanatory Notes for more detail. (b) See paragraphs 18 to 21 of the Explanatory Notes.

TABLE 2. TOTAL MOVEMENT — DEPARTURES: CATEGORY OF MOVEMENT

Period	Permanent departures	Long-term departures		Total permanent and long-term departures	Short-term departures (a)			Total departures (a)	
		Australian residents	Overseas visitors		Australian residents (Actual)	Overseas visitors (Seasonally adjusted)	Overseas visitors (Trend estimate)		
Year ended 31 December —									
1988	20,320	54,120	30,330	104,770	1,697,600	..	..	2,174,100	3,976,500
1989	24,830	59,220	35,990	120,040	1,989,800	..	..	2,020,400	4,130,300
1990	30,370	66,300	40,810	137,470	2,169,900	..	..	2,162,700	4,470,100
1990 —									
June	2,250	4,770	3,360	10,380	209,800	176,500	180,600	149,000	369,200
July	2,590	5,740	3,090	11,420	198,400	181,600	181,000	156,300	366,100
August	2,560	6,300	2,720	11,590	184,300	179,500	181,400	188,000	383,900
September	2,290	4,770	2,550	9,600	214,300	181,800	181,400	170,000	393,800
October	2,530	4,280	2,480	9,290	156,200	179,900	181,000	162,000	327,400
November	2,430	4,510	4,130	11,060	154,900	184,200	179,500	193,300	359,200
December	3,230	5,800	7,490	16,530	251,200	186,900	176,800	179,200	446,900
1991 —									
January	2,820	8,110	3,650	14,580	127,900	156,500	173,800	243,600	386,200
February	2,770	5,860	3,710	12,350	125,100	175,800	171,600	180,000	317,400
March	2,900	6,100	4,020	13,020	171,500	170,200	170,600	197,600	382,100
April	2,400	5,770	3,020	11,140	167,000	170,600	170,600	180,900	359,100
May	2,450	4,820	2,960	10,230	163,900	172,200	171,100	175,000	349,100
June	2,160	4,890	3,790	10,830	200,900	171,200	171,300	167,900	379,600
July	2,620	5,460	3,560	11,640	188,900	173,700	171,300	180,000	380,600
August	2,550	6,500	3,370	12,420	168,000	167,000	170,000	214,600	395,000

(a) Figures for short-term movement are largely based on a sample and are subject to sampling error. See Paragraph 10 of the Explanatory Notes for more detail. (b) See paragraphs 18 to 21 of the Explanatory Notes.

TABLE 3. SHORT-TERM MOVEMENT : ARRIVALS OF OVERSEAS VISITORS AND DEPARTURES OF AUSTRALIAN RESIDENTS BY INTENDED LENGTH OF STAY AND PURPOSE OF JOURNEY

	Year ended 31 December		Quarter ended 30 June		January to August		Month of August	
	1989	1990	1990	1991	1990	1991	1990	1991
ARRIVALS								
Intended length of stay								
Under 1 week	499,800	563,100	138,700	152,400	371,400	394,100	45,000	56,400
1 and under 2 weeks	494,000	571,100	130,100	144,600	355,700	415,900	52,500	61,000
2 weeks and under 1 month	448,500	459,000	96,600	98,400	293,800	310,500	43,400	49,100
1 and under 2 months	265,600	268,000	49,400	48,100	161,500	154,900	16,400	15,400
2 and under 3 months	98,900	98,300	19,700	18,500	59,900	53,300	4,900	4,700
3 and under 6 months	110,700	104,500	20,800	17,300	63,400	55,300	6,600	5,200
6 and under 12 months	162,700	150,700	33,000	22,300	104,200	82,500	9,400	7,500
Total (a)	2,080,300	2,214,900	488,300	501,600	1,409,900	1,466,400	178,200	199,300
Purpose of journey								
In transit	78,600	70,200	15,800	15,400	47,200	45,000	5,800	6,200
Attending convention	25,400	32,500	6,100	15,500	21,300	28,900	6,200	2,500
Business	230,800	231,100	55,700	57,400	153,900	144,600	18,000	18,600
Accompanying business traveller	19,400	21,800	4,800	5,300	15,100	13,700	2,300	1,700
Visiting relatives	459,900	456,000	97,600	97,800	276,900	276,700	34,000	35,600
Holiday	1,107,000	1,233,700	267,500	285,400	771,900	863,100	100,200	125,500
Employment	30,000	29,600	7,500	7,300	21,300	17,600	2,300	2,200
Education	62,800	64,600	14,600	10,300	53,700	46,000	3,200	3,900
Other and not stated	66,400	75,300	18,900	7,400	48,600	30,900	6,200	3,200
Total	2,080,300	2,214,900	488,300	501,600	1,409,900	1,466,400	178,200	199,300
DEPARTURES								
Intended length of stay								
Under 1 week	175,900	189,600	50,900	49,800	124,100	126,000	17,200	18,100
1 and under 2 weeks	487,800	523,600	127,800	123,900	336,700	332,400	40,600	41,000
2 weeks and under 1 month	565,200	604,800	147,400	138,300	378,000	349,100	43,800	41,600
1 and under 2 months	353,300	389,200	98,800	90,500	231,600	211,700	38,100	30,000
2 and under 3 months	158,500	181,500	50,200	44,500	114,700	99,400	20,900	15,200
3 and under 6 months	139,800	157,500	61,700	48,800	117,400	99,600	13,900	10,800
6 and under 12 months	108,100	123,600	34,400	36,000	90,900	95,000	9,800	11,200
Total (a)	1,989,800	2,169,900	571,100	531,800	1,393,400	1,313,200	184,300	168,000
Purpose of journey								
Attending convention	47,700	55,300	18,500	12,900	38,000	28,600	5,200	4,300
Business	302,200	306,900	84,600	85,800	206,800	201,900	25,500	25,300
Accompanying business traveller	33,000	31,600	9,200	6,500	21,700	17,800	2,800	2,300
Visiting relatives	387,600	439,200	117,900	115,500	271,200	277,000	36,500	32,700
Holiday	1,085,500	1,193,900	304,000	272,000	758,300	690,400	101,700	90,100
Employment	35,700	41,500	9,300	13,200	27,000	34,200	3,900	4,300
Education	19,400	24,100	5,800	5,400	16,300	15,300	2,500	2,500
Other and not stated	78,700	77,300	21,700	20,500	54,200	48,100	6,300	6,300
Total	1,989,800	2,169,900	571,100	531,800	1,393,400	1,313,200	184,300	168,000

(a) Includes not stated.

TABLE 4. PERMANENT (SETTLER) ARRIVALS : COUNTRY OF BIRTH (a)

Country of birth (Summary)	Year ended 31 December		Quarter ended 30 June		January to August		Month of August	
	1989	1990	1990	1991	1990	1991	1990	1991
OCEANIA AND ANTARCTICA —								
New Zealand	17,340	8,970	2,160	1,470	6,430	4,400	710	480
Other	4,040	3,810	990	840	2,660	2,420	250	320
Total	21,390	12,780	3,150	2,300	9,090	6,820	960	800
EUROPE AND THE USSR —								
United Kingdom	23,090	22,040	5,670	4,810	14,800	12,730	1,910	1,510
Other	16,540	12,780	3,300	2,630	8,660	7,620	1,090	1,130
Total	39,630	34,820	8,970	7,440	23,460	20,350	3,010	2,640
Middle East and North Africa	6,580	6,390	1,310	1,700	3,760	4,690	590	730
Southeast Asia	29,690	30,520	7,610	6,770	19,380	17,560	2,910	2,120
Northeast Asia	16,290	18,860	4,160	4,910	12,620	16,870	2,200	2,650
Southern Asia	5,780	7,760	1,750	2,410	4,490	7,060	720	1,020
The Americas	7,460	6,600	1,630	1,680	4,440	4,650	650	730
Africa (excluding North Africa)	4,190	3,800	820	770	2,560	2,420	280	220
Total (b)	131,060	121,560	29,400	27,980	79,840	80,440	11,320	10,900

(a) See paragraphs 8 and 9 of the Explanatory Notes. (b) Includes other and not stated.

TABLE 5. SHORT-TERM MOVEMENT: ARRIVALS OF OVERSEAS VISITORS
COUNTRY OF RESIDENCE (a)

Country of residence	Year ended 31 December		Quarter ended 30 June		January to August		Month of August	
	1989	1990	1990	1991	1990	1991	1990	1991
OCEANIA & ANTARCTICA —								
Fiji	17,500	16,000	3,600	3,300	9,900	9,600	1,200	1,200
New Caledonia	13,400	14,400	3,000	2,300	10,300	10,400	1,200	1,300
New Zealand	449,500	418,400	109,500	114,100	270,700	307,600	45,200	55,900
Papua New Guinea	34,800	34,600	8,000	8,100	21,700	22,000	2,000	2,600
Other	18,400	17,200	3,800	3,500	11,200	11,000	1,300	1,400
Total	533,500	500,700	127,900	131,300	321,900	360,500	50,800	62,400
EUROPE & THE USSR —								
Austria	9,200	9,600	1,600	1,800	5,600	6,000	600	700
Belgium	3,700	4,200	500	500	2,700	2,200	500	200
Denmark	10,200	9,900	1,500	1,600	5,800	5,200	600	500
Finland	5,200	5,800	900	1,100	3,200	3,300	400	200
France	20,100	21,100	3,700	4,100	13,500	13,400	2,200	2,100
Germany, Fed Rep	68,100	74,200	13,700	12,800	45,300	44,400	4,400	4,100
Greece	7,400	7,500	1,300	1,000	4,500	3,000	500	300
Ireland, Republic of	12,200	10,600	2,200	1,800	6,700	5,500	600	600
Italy	20,500	24,400	3,300	4,400	14,700	14,000	4,200	2,800
Netherlands	20,100	21,100	3,100	3,100	12,000	10,900	1,500	900
Norway	3,700	4,400	800	700	2,700	2,300	300	100
Sweden	24,100	22,000	2,900	2,400	12,700	9,700	1,200	600
Switzerland	27,400	29,500	3,800	4,300	15,700	16,400	1,300	1,300
United Kingdom	272,900	277,700	53,700	53,000	170,100	160,900	15,800	12,400
USSR & Baltic States	5,400	5,300	900	900	3,300	2,900	400	400
Yugoslavia	6,400	5,800	900	900	3,300	2,900	500	400
Other	15,300	16,500	2,800	2,100	9,800	7,900	1,700	1,100
Total	531,700	549,500	97,500	96,400	331,600	310,700	37,000	28,700
MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA —								
Israel	5,400	5,300	1,100	1,000	3,400	3,100	400	400
Other	11,600	12,100	3,100	2,000	8,400	5,900	1,400	1,200
Total	17,000	17,400	4,100	3,000	11,800	9,000	1,700	1,500
SOUTHEAST ASIA —								
Indonesia	29,000	34,400	8,800	9,600	22,100	23,200	2,500	2,200
Malaysia	44,300	46,600	11,100	11,500	29,600	29,800	2,800	2,900
Philippines	11,000	13,600	3,700	4,400	8,900	10,100	1,100	900
Singapore	65,200	75,900	18,100	21,600	41,700	47,700	4,300	4,900
Thailand	17,300	19,600	5,300	7,100	12,600	15,100	1,400	1,400
Other	3,900	5,000	1,100	1,100	3,300	3,600	500	400
Total	170,600	195,000	48,100	55,300	118,200	129,500	12,500	12,800
NORTHEAST ASIA —								
China	29,100	23,700	8,300	3,400	18,900	10,000	1,200	1,600
Hong Kong	54,100	54,500	11,500	10,500	36,700	44,000	3,400	6,000
Japan	349,500	479,900	107,000	115,000	312,500	329,700	41,900	44,900
Korea	10,400	14,100	3,000	6,000	9,000	16,100	1,200	3,000
Taiwan	21,500	25,300	4,500	4,600	18,800	18,900	1,600	2,900
Other	500	500	100	100	300	500	100	100
Total	465,200	597,900	134,300	139,500	396,200	419,200	49,300	58,500
SOUTHERN ASIA —								
India	10,900	11,000	3,200	3,000	7,500	6,500	800	700
Sri Lanka	4,000	3,900	1,000	1,000	2,600	2,500	300	300
Other	3,300	3,000	700	800	2,100	1,600	300	200
Total	18,200	17,800	4,800	4,800	12,200	10,600	1,300	1,200
THE AMERICAS —								
Brazil	2,500	2,900	600	500	1,700	1,500	300	100
Canada	54,200	53,700	9,600	8,900	33,200	32,800	3,500	3,300
United States of America (b)	261,700	251,600	56,100	56,700	165,100	176,200	19,600	28,700
Other	8,200	8,800	1,700	1,600	5,400	4,900	800	600
Total	326,600	317,000	68,000	67,700	205,400	215,400	24,100	32,800
AFRICA (excluding North Africa) —								
South Africa	8,000	9,100	1,800	1,600	5,000	5,000	600	500
Zimbabwe	3,600	3,600	700	600	2,200	1,900	300	200
Other	3,900	4,200	800	1,000	2,500	2,900	200	200
Total	15,500	16,900	3,300	3,300	9,700	9,800	1,100	900
Total (c)	2,080,300	2,214,900	488,300	501,600	1,409,900	1,466,400	178,200	199,300

(a) See paragraphs 8 and 9 of the Explanatory Notes. (b) Includes America undefined. (c) Includes other and not stated.

TABLE 6. SHORT-TERM MOVEMENT : DEPARTURES OF AUSTRALIAN RESIDENTS
COUNTRY OF INTENDED STAY (a)

Country of intended stay	Year ended 31 December		Quarter ended 30 June		January to August		Month of August	
	1989	1990	1990	1991	1990	1991	1990	1991
OCEANIA & ANTARCTICA —								
Fiji	93,900	102,000	24,000	18,200	63,700	56,200	9,300	8,100
New Caledonia	14,500	14,900	3,500	3,600	9,200	10,100	1,300	1,500
New Zealand	297,300	320,200	69,200	63,100	195,300	194,900	23,300	26,600
Norfolk Island	12,200	14,200	3,400	4,400	7,800	10,200	700	1,000
Papua New Guinea	34,400	34,000	8,900	9,800	21,800	24,600	2,900	2,800
Vanuatu	12,800	17,200	3,100	4,200	9,500	11,400	1,300	1,400
Other	27,300	27,400	5,800	6,500	15,800	15,200	1,400	1,700
Total	492,400	529,900	117,900	109,700	323,200	322,400	40,300	43,100
EUROPE & THE USSR —								
Austria	6,400	7,600	2,400	1,900	5,300	4,600	800	600
France	20,500	24,100	7,300	6,300	15,600	14,200	2,400	2,100
Germany, Fed Rep	30,800	34,500	10,400	9,900	22,900	21,600	3,900	3,000
Greece	31,700	32,900	14,300	10,000	26,800	20,200	3,500	2,600
Ireland, Republic of	10,100	11,900	3,800	3,200	8,100	7,300	1,400	900
Italy	41,600	45,000	17,800	12,400	33,500	26,600	5,200	4,000
Netherlands	13,300	15,900	5,600	4,900	11,000	10,100	1,800	1,400
Poland	5,400	6,300	3,000	2,200	4,300	3,900	300	300
Spain	5,600	6,300	2,000	1,400	4,400	3,700	600	500
Sweden	4,200	4,900	1,700	1,800	3,600	3,400	500	400
Switzerland	9,000	9,500	3,300	3,000	6,400	6,200	800	600
United Kingdom	237,500	252,800	81,800	69,700	179,400	150,700	30,700	20,100
Yugoslavia	15,200	17,500	7,200	4,000	13,900	6,800	1,700	500
Other	32,400	40,100	15,600	12,000	30,600	24,100	4,500	2,400
Total	463,600	509,200	176,100	142,700	365,700	303,500	58,400	39,500
MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA —								
Egypt	6,300	4,800	1,100	1,200	3,200	2,100	400	300
Israel	6,200	4,800	1,800	1,300	3,700	2,700	200	400
Lebanon	5,000	7,700	2,400	4,100	5,700	7,800	700	1,400
Turkey	6,900	8,400	4,300	2,500	7,000	4,000	800	600
Other	7,100	6,300	2,200	1,900	4,900	4,000	400	600
Total	31,400	32,100	11,800	11,000	24,400	20,600	2,500	3,200
SOUTHEAST ASIA —								
Indonesia	146,100	158,000	39,400	41,000	103,500	110,500	14,300	15,800
Malaysia	62,300	75,100	16,800	15,500	44,900	40,800	4,400	4,800
Philippines	41,900	40,500	9,900	9,900	24,700	24,100	2,400	2,600
Singapore	117,800	105,500	24,600	22,300	67,000	58,700	6,800	6,200
Thailand	86,600	99,100	21,600	17,200	61,500	43,000	6,400	4,600
Other	7,100	9,000	1,800	2,900	4,900	8,600	600	1,100
Total	461,600	487,200	114,100	108,700	306,600	285,700	35,000	35,100
NORTHEAST ASIA —								
China	13,900	12,800	3,000	4,300	7,200	9,000	900	1,100
Hong Kong	116,800	120,500	26,300	29,500	72,300	78,300	9,400	10,100
Japan	40,600	47,900	12,500	12,400	29,300	27,900	4,000	2,700
Korea	7,800	8,000	2,400	2,200	4,900	5,100	600	1,000
Taiwan	10,600	13,600	3,100	4,000	7,800	9,800	900	1,100
Other	300	400	100	100	300	200	100	—
Total	190,000	203,200	47,300	52,500	121,800	130,300	15,800	16,000
SOUTHERN ASIA —								
India	23,200	22,100	3,700	3,400	11,300	9,600	1,200	1,100
Sri Lanka	3,500	7,200	1,700	1,600	3,400	4,200	400	400
Other	7,900	8,000	1,300	900	3,800	3,100	300	200
Total	34,600	37,300	6,600	5,900	18,500	16,800	1,900	1,700
THE AMERICAS —								
Canada	30,100	32,500	9,900	8,500	22,300	19,300	3,200	2,800
United States of America (b)	247,200	300,200	79,800	85,600	191,100	193,400	24,500	23,900
Other	15,800	15,400	2,400	2,500	7,300	7,900	900	900
Total	293,100	348,100	92,100	96,600	220,700	220,600	28,600	27,600
AFRICA (excluding North Africa) —								
South Africa	11,600	10,400	2,600	1,700	5,900	4,800	700	200
Other	9,200	9,300	2,000	2,400	5,000	6,300	800	1,100
Total	20,900	19,600	4,600	4,200	11,000	11,200	1,500	1,300
Total (c)	1,989,800	2,169,900	571,100	531,800	1,393,400	1,313,200	184,300	168,000

(a) See paragraphs 8 and 9 of the Explanatory Notes. (b) Includes America undefined. (c) Includes other and not stated.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

This series of publications contains statistics of overseas arrivals and departures in summary form for the latest available month during which the movement occurred. More detailed statistics can be made available, on request, in unpublished form.

Scope

2. The statistics in this publication relate to the number of movements rather than the number of travellers (i.e. the multiple movements of individual persons during a given reference period are each counted separately). The statistics exclude the movements of operational air and ships' crew, of transit passengers who pass through Australia but are not cleared for entry, and of passengers on pleasure cruises commencing and finishing in Australia aboard ships not then engaged on regular voyages.

Definitions

Category of movement

3. Category of movement is primarily determined by the traveller's selection of their own category on the passenger card. This selection is accepted provided it is consistent with other information on the passenger card.

Permanent movement

4. Permanent arrivals (settlers) comprise travellers who hold migrant visas, (regardless of stated intended period of stay), New Zealand citizens who indicate an intention to settle and those who are otherwise eligible to settle (e.g. overseas born children of Australian citizens). Permanent departures are Australian residents (including former settlers) who on departure state they do not intend to return to Australia.

Long-term movement

5. Long-term arrivals comprise overseas visitors (except those who hold migrant visas—see paragraph 4 above) who intend to stay in Australia 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 for 12 months or more and overseas visitors departing who stayed 12 months or more in Australia.

Short-term movement

6. Movements of travellers whose intended or actual length of stay is less than twelve months are classified as short-term, except those who on arrival hold migrant visas (see paragraph 4 above).

7. A significant number of travellers state exactly 12 months or one year as their intended period of stay. Many of these stay for less than that period and on their departure from, or return to, Australia are therefore classified as short-term. To maintain consistency between arrivals and departures, movements of travellers who report their actual or intended period of stay as being one year exactly are randomly allocated to long-term or short-term, in proportion to the number of movements of travellers who report their actual length of stay as up to one month more, or one month less, than one year.

Country of birth or residence

8. Classifications previously used in the ABS for social, demographic and labour statistics were adaptations of the United Nations (UN) country classification. Major Australian users indicated that the UN classification did not meet their requirements for analytical purposes.

Hence the ABS has developed a new classification of countries called the Australian Standard Classification of Countries for Social Statistics (ASCCS). In this classification, neighbouring countries are grouped into progressively broader geographic areas on the basis of social, cultural, political and economic similarities. As part of this process emphasis was given to developing aggregations which satisfied the requirements of Australian users. Unlike the previous UN classification, the ASCCS does not take the conventional notion of continents as a constraint in the design of the classification structure. However, the base units of ASCCS are broadly compatible with those of the UN classification and it is possible to aggregate statistics based on the ASCCS to the UN classifications for purposes of comparison. The ASCCS has been applied to Overseas Arrivals and Departures statistics from January 1991. The major changes are as follows:

- 'Africa' has been separated into two groups: 'Middle East and North Africa' and 'Africa (excluding North Africa)' which includes all other African countries.
- There is no longer a single category 'Asia'. Separate categories 'Southeast Asia', 'Northeast Asia' and 'Southern Asia' have been created. 'Middle East' countries formerly included in 'Asia' are now included in the new category 'Middle East and North Africa'.
- 'Cyprus' has been included in Europe (formerly included in Asia).
- 'Tahiti' has been included with 'French Polynesia'.

For more detailed information on the classification of countries refer to the ABS publication *Australian Standard Classification of Countries for Social Statistics* (1269.0).

9. Statistics on country of birth, residence or citizenship have certain limitations because of inadequate reporting on passenger cards. For instance, it is not possible to identify separately England, Scotland and Wales. Similarly 'Korea' includes both the Republic of Korea and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. U.S.A. includes 'America (undefined)'. Germany refers to all people who list country of birth as either 'Germany, Federal Republic' or 'Germany, Democratic Republic' as a result of the unification of Germany in 1990.

Estimation method

10. Overseas arrival and departure statistics are derived from a combination of full enumeration and sampling. All permanent movements and all movements with a duration of stay of one year or more are fully enumerated and processed. All movements with a duration of stay of less than one year are sampled. Statistics relating to these movements are therefore estimates which may differ from statistics which would have been obtained if details of all these movements had been processed.

11. The statistics in this publication have been rounded, to the nearest 100 for short-term movements and to the nearest 10 for permanent and long-term movements. In tables showing both short-term and permanent and long-term movements the total movements have been rounded to the nearest 100. The sums of the components may, due to rounding, not add exactly to totals.

Corrections and imputations

12. The imprecision due to sampling errors should not be confused with errors arising from imperfections in reporting, which may occur in any data collection, whether sampled or not. Every effort is made to minimise such errors, both through careful design of the passenger cards and through checks on the information once it is received. During the edit process some items are corrected where they conflict with other known information. Missing replies to certain items such as age and country of birth are also imputed by reference to other related items.

13. Errors of this kind differ from discrepancies arising from the fact that certain information reflects the travellers' intentions, at the time the passenger cards were completed. These intentions are of course subject to change. Particularly affected is the distinction between permanent and temporary movement and in the latter case, length of intended stay, country in which most time will be spent and purpose of journey.

Seasonal adjustment

14. Original and seasonally adjusted short-term overseas visitor arrivals and short-term Australian resident departures are shown in Tables 1 and 2 respectively. In the seasonally adjusted series, account has been taken of normal seasonal factors and 'trading day' effects (arising from the varying numbers of Sundays, Mondays, Tuesdays, etc. in the month) and the effect of movement in the date of Easter which may in successive years, affect figures for different months.

15. Seasonal adjustment may be carried out by various methods and the results may vary slightly according to the procedure adopted. Accordingly, seasonally adjusted statistics should not be regarded as in any way definitive. In interpreting particular seasonally adjusted statistics it is important to bear in mind the methods by which they have been derived and the limitations to which the methods used are subject. The adjustment procedure used for the short-term visitor arrivals and resident departures data is an aggregative adjustment. Prior to the July 1989 issue these data were adjusted at the category total level only (for visitor arrivals and resident departures separately). The aggregative method adjusts the major components separately (in this instance, the main countries of each category). The adjusted category total is obtained by summing the adjusted components. For more detail, contact the Supervisor, Time Series Analysis, A.B.S. on (06) 252 6103.

16. Seasonal adjustment is a means of removing the estimated effects of normal seasonal variation from the series so that the effects of other influences on the series may be more clearly recognised. Seasonal adjustment procedures do not aim to remove the irregular or non-seasonal influences which may be present in any particular month, such as the effect of major sporting and cultural events, changes in airfares structure and the fluctuation of SA relative to other currencies. Irregular influences that are highly volatile can make it difficult to interpret the movement of the series even after adjustment for seasonal variation.

17. The seasonally adjusted series can, however, be smoothed to reduce the impact of the irregular component in the adjusted series. There are a number of ways of accomplishing this, depending on the intended uses of the smoothed series. If importance is attached to measuring the underlying change in the most recent periods, moving

averages employing appropriate weighting patterns should be adopted; the choice of averaging technique will determine in part the degree of smoothness of the derived series. The longer the term of the moving average the longer is the time series affected by revisions resulting from more recent data. In order to ensure that the underlying trend-cycle of a series is reflected in the trend estimate series, the degree of smoothness alone cannot always be used as the sole criterion in determining which moving average is appropriate.

18. The trend estimate short-term overseas visitor arrivals and short-term Australian resident departures statistics are shown in Tables 1 and 2 respectively. The trend estimate has been derived by applying a 13-term Henderson-weighted moving average to the series.

19. While this technique enables smoothed data for the latest period to be produced, it does result in revisions to the smoothed series, principally, of recent months as additional observations become available. There may also be revisions as a result of the re-estimation of the seasonal factors. For further information concerning the smoothing process refer to an Information Paper *A Guide to Smoothing Time Series — Estimates of Trend* (1316.0).

20. With the opening of World Expo 88 in April 1988 and at its conclusion in October 1988, abrupt dislocations occurred in the trend path of the short-term overseas visitor arrivals series. As different countries displayed varied timings of this effect, the trend path between April and October 1988 is suppressed. Estimates of the trend path are now available from November 1988 onwards.

21. The reliability of the provisional trend estimate for January 1991 may have been adversely affected by the presence of temporary irregular effects associated with the commencement of the Gulf War. However, these influences are not expected to affect the reliability of the seasonally adjusted series, because they are neither seasonal nor trading-day type influences.

Related publications

22. Comprehensive definitions and explanations, and detailed data are contained in:

Overseas Arrivals and Departures, Australia (3402.0)—issued quarterly

Overseas Arrivals and Departures, Australia (3404.0)—issued annually

23. Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications and Products, Australia* (1101.0). The ABS also issues, on Tuesdays and Fridays, a *Publications Advice* (1105.0) which lists publications to be released in the next few days. The Catalogue and Publications Advice are available from any ABS office.

Unpublished statistics

24. As well as the statistics included in this and related publications, the ABS may have other relevant unpublished data available. Inquiries should be made to Mr Robert Chibnall on Canberra (06) 252 6671.

Symbols and other usages

- nil or rounded to zero
- .. not applicable
- r figures or series revised since previous issue



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