Statistics Section
Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs

IMMIGRATION
FEDERATION TO CENTURY'S END
1901–2000

October 2001

FOREWORD

It is with pride that I present this contribution to the celebrations of the Centenary Year of the Federation of Australia.

In 1901 Australia had a population of just 4 million. We now have more than 19 million with almost one in four of these born overseas. Australia is indeed a multicultural and cosmopolitan society that owes much to the contribution of our indigenous culture, early European settlement and successive waves of immigration from every continent in the world.

As a truly multicultural nation, we are an example to the rest of the world in demonstrating just what a planned and balanced immigration policy can accomplish.

This publication is an overview of the migration and population history of Australia in the 20th century, bringing together data from a variety of sources. The main sources are the statistical collections of the Australian Bureau of Statistics and the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs. In particular, extensive use has been made of the national Censuses.

The contents of the publication allow anyone interested in Australian immigration or population history to study the process of change that occurred in the population in the 20th century.

When the six Australian colonies federated, immigration planning at a federal level was one of the first responsibilities of the Commonwealth Government. At the Centenary of Federation this important responsibility is still a high priority for the Government, as it has been for every Government since Federation.

I am confident that the information provided here will promote a greater understanding of an era of great change in the population of Australia. By studying our immigration and population history we will be better placed to face the future and influence or create the policies that will guide and shape our destiny.

Philip Ruddock
Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs
October 2001

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Introduction

On 1 January 1901, the six British colonies, New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia and Tasmania were proclaimed the Commonwealth of Australia. Common control over immigration was recognised as one of the major advantages of Federation. As a result, transfer of constitutional responsibility for immigration from the States to the Commonwealth was instituted quickly.

In the 20th century, through controlled immigration and natural increase, Australia's population grew from about four to nineteen million. The composition of the population underwent many changes. This publication is a study of the process of change in the country of birth composition of migration and population in Australia throughout the 20th century. The statistics presented are drawn mostly from previous publications of the Australian Bureau of Statistics and the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs.

The publication begins with a timeline illustrating the history of immigration intake, population size and population composition. This is included to assist in interpreting the detailed information provided later, by highlighting events that influenced change in immigration intake and the Australian population.

The increasing diversity of the population is illustrated by the inclusion of a section on the composition of the Australian population by country of birth. The low proportion of the overseas-born in the middle of the century compared to the beginning and end of the century is shown and discussed. Also illustrated is the influence of the United Kingdom-born, the dominant, but declining, largest single overseas-born group.

Continuing with information about country of birth, the top ten countries of birth in the population at selected Censuses are identified and tabulated. In a readily accessible form, this section provides an insight into the changing composition of the population from the perspective of the larger countries of birth.

Net Overseas Migration (NOM), a measure of the net addition or loss to Australia's resident population due to migration, is presented in graphical and tabular form along with a discussion of major trends.

The source countries of the almost 6 million settlers who have arrived since World War Two are tabulated in five year arrival period groups. A highlight of the accompanying text is a discussion of the shift away from Europe as the source of settlers. A table of the top ten source countries of settler arrivals follows. The larger countries of birth are presented in this form in order to provide a more easily interpreted outline of the changing composition of settler arrivals.

Sex ratios (the number of males per 100 females) are presented for countries of birth in the Australian population throughout the century. For almost all countries of birth the trend has been for the populations to move from male dominated populations to being balanced in respect of sex.

Median age is a measure of monitoring the changing age structure of a population. A table of median ages for each country of birth is included. The accompanying discussion includes details on the links between movements in median age and the fertility rate, life expectancy and immigration.

Bringing together information provided elsewhere in the publication, the final section provides a brief historical analysis of seven prominent countries of birth in the Australian population. The purpose of this section is not only to highlight these countries but also to show how the information from the publication can be used to construct a detailed history of the trends undergone by a particular country of birth.

DIMA acknowledges the work of authors who contributed to the departmental publications or whose other works were used as background in the production of the publication. These sources are specifically referenced and outlined in References. The illustrations used in the timeline are taken from the photographic archive of DIMA.

It is hoped that "Immigration – Federation to Century's End –1901–2000" will prove to be a useful resource for all those interested in the process of change that Australia has undergone in the 20th century.

Immigration to Australia During the 20th Century –
Historical Impacts on Immigration Intake, Population Size and Population Composition
– A Timeline

The Lead Up to Federation
Pre 1901

In 1889 the population passed 3 Million.

The States administered their own immigration programs and actively competed for migrants until the Federal Government took full control. It was recognised as a matter of national significance that, when the colonies federated, constitutional responsibility for immigration would be transferred to the new Federal Government.

In the last decade of the 19th century Australia was experiencing depression after an economic boom in the 1880s. During this depression, small net migration was having very little effect on population growth.

The Early Years of Federation
1901–1914

Population passed 4 Million.

At the beginning of the century, support for immigration was widespread with the effects of the 1890s depression fading.

1901
Australia's six colonies came together as the Commonwealth of Australia,
a federated self-governing member of the British Empire.

The States continued to administer their own immigration programs but the Commonwealth was beginning to assume responsibility for aspects of immigration policy.

The *Immigration Restriction Act 1901* enabled Australia to eliminate non-European migration. This formal implementation of the 'White Australia Policy' was welcomed by most of the community. Implementation of the policy included the 'Dictation Test', which was used to exclude certain applicants by requiring them to pass a written test in a European language, with which they were not necessarily familiar.

1903
All residents who had previously been 'Naturalised'[1] under State Acts were given the same status under the *Commonwealth Naturalisation Act 1903*. Applicants for Naturalisation could not be natives of Asia, Africa or the Pacific Islands (except New Zealand).

1905
Australia grew rapidly until the onset of World War One. Between 1905 and the outbreak of World War One, approximately 390,000 new settlers arrived, principally from our traditional source, the British Isles, and the continent's population rose from 4 to almost 5 million.

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[1] Naturalisation was the approximate equivalent to what we know today as Citizenship.

World War One
1914–1918

Population passed 5 Million

World War One meant a virtual cessation of immigration.

65,000 Australian men died in the fighting.

During the war antagonism towards 'Aliens'[2] developed. In response, the Federal Government amended the *Commonwealth Naturalisation Act 1903*. This meant that Naturalisation would not be granted unless applicants renounced their own nationality, had advertised their intention to become naturalised, and could read and write English.

Between World War One and
The Great Depression
1919–1929

Population passed 6 Million

The 1920s was a successful decade in terms of net migration gain.

More than 300,000 immigrants arrived, two thirds of whom were 'Assisted'[3]. The majority came from Britain but there was growing interest from Italians and Greeks.

Migrating by steamship from Europe to Australia (1921)

1921
The Federal Government took control of all immigration, and pursued it vigorously, after a virtual cessation during World War One. A major component in the resumption of immigration was the 'Empire Settlement Scheme' whereby Britain and its immigrant receiving dominions were to share equally in the cost of promoting migration from Britain.

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[2] Prior to 1948 'Alien' referred to those who were not British subjects and afterwards to those who were not Australian Citizens.

[3] Assisted migrants were offered assistance with the cost of passage to Australia from the Australian Government. Until April 1981 assistance was offered to migrants from certain countries as an inducement to migrate. Since April 1981 assistance has only been given to refugees.

The Great Depression
1929–1937

The Depression brought assisted arrivals to a standstill.

The only significant immigration was that of refugees from Nazi Germany. More than 7,000 refugees from Germany (mainly Jews of German and Austrian origin) arrived before World War Two abruptly ended the program.

World War Two
1939–1945

Population passed 7 Million.

There was little immigration during World War Two. Towards the end of the war and just after, Australia experienced a net migration loss, losing 15,148 people in 1946.

The war brought home Australia's vulnerability. The acting Prime Minister, Frank Forde said after John Curtin's death in 1945: 'History will some day record how close Australia was to being overrun'.

Post War Resettlement
1945–1965

Population passed 11 million

World War Two marked a change in the pace of Australia's immigration history. The Australian Government planned an ambitious post-war reconstruction and expansion program. Australia showed an enormous potential for growth and could offer people who wished to leave war-torn Europe an optimistic future. The perception that Australia needed a larger population was emphasised by threats to Australia in World War Two. There was a feeling that such a small population in charge of a vast land could not defend itself. These perceptions gave way to the catch cry 'Populate or Perish'. The scene was set for an extraordinary post war immigration program supported by virtually all sections of the community and fuelled by the post war economic boom.

1945

Arthur Calwell, the first Minister for Immigration, established the Federal Department of Immigration.

In 1945, the Government launched the first 'Migration Program'. Immigration was intended to increase Australia's population by 1 per cent per annum, and thereby achieve an annual growth rate of 2 per cent. The Migration Program has been maintained by each succeeding government and is adjusted to take account of changing economic, social and political environments.

1946

Australia signed an agreement to provide free, assisted passage for British ex-servicemen and their dependents, as well as for other selected British migrants. Free passage was also extended to Polish ex-servicemen who were unwilling to return to their homeland after the war. Later schemes included ex-servicemen and freedom fighters from the USA, Netherlands, Norway, France, Belgium and Denmark.

1947

The Government partly relaxed the restrictions of the *Immigration Restriction Act 1901*. Non-Europeans admitted for business reasons, who had lived in Australia continuously for fifteen years, were allowed to stay, without applying for periodical extensions of permits.

Australia agreed to settle 12,000 displaced persons per year with provision to increase this number.

1948

In 1947–48, arrivals in Australia exceeded departures by 29,365, compared with a net loss
of nearly 10,000 in 1945–46 and 6,500 in 1946–47.

The *Aliens Act 1947* came into force. It meant that all Aliens 16 years of age or older had to register and notify any change of
name, address or occupation.

Peace treaties with Italy, Romania, Bulgaria and Hungary opened the way for migration from these countries.

Availability of ships was a major problem. Australia spent millions renovating damaged ships and by the end of 1948, 10 ships
were being used exclusively to transport migrants while commercial ships were carrying thousands of others.

1949

Assisted arrivals reached more than 118,800, four times the 1948 figure.

The *Nationality and Citizenship Act 1948* came into force on 26 January 1949. Before then the status of Australia citizen did
not exist. It was Australia's contribution to the resolution of inconsistent citizenship laws of countries of the British
Commonwealth. Citizens of all countries of the British Commonwealth were deemed to be British Subjects.

Work began on the Snowy Mountains Hydro-Electric Scheme, which was to employ a considerable proportion of immigrants.

The Snowy Mountains Hydro-Electric Scheme
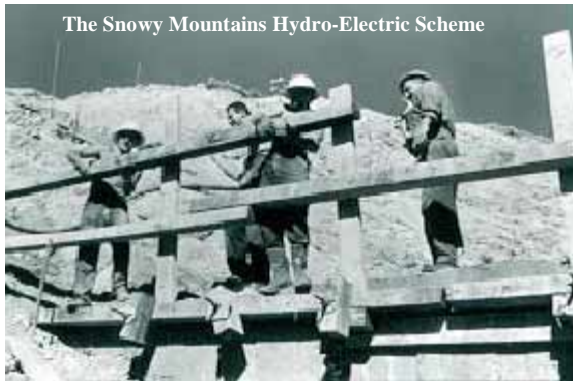
1950

Net Overseas Migration reached a record high of 153,685, the third highest figure of the century, only surpassed in 1919
(166,303) with troops returning from World War One and in 1988 (172,794).

Principles were set for the 1950s: to increase Australia's population at a rate of one per cent by immigration with the annual
migrant intake balanced between assisted and non-assisted migrants, British and non-British migrants, and between northern
and southern Europeans within the non-British intake.

1951

New assisted passage schemes were agreed with the Netherlands and Italy.

1952

The Government allowed Japanese wives of Australian servicemen to be admitted, under permits valid initially for five years. It also allowed entry for 800 non-European refugees. These were the first elements of immigration policy not focused on Europe.

For the first time since 1946 there was significant unemployment in Australia, resulting from a severe fall in prices of some Australian exports. There were major political repercussions and the Migration Program was revised to reduce the intake of workers and bring in more family groups. The 1952 immigrant intake, originally planned for 150,000 was curtailed and the 1953 program was reduced to 80,000. At the same time Europe was about to experience an economic upsurge and labour shortages.

The 'Displaced Persons Scheme' was terminated.

The *Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration (ICEM)* was established in Geneva. As a member, Australia made arrangements with Austria, Belgium, Greece and Spain for assisted migration from these countries.

An Assisted Migration Agreement with West Germany was signed.

WACOL Migrant Hostel – Brisbane (1953)

1954

General Assisted Passage Schemes were introduced for people from the USA, Switzerland, Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Finland.

1955

Australia's millionth post-war immigrant arrived.

1956

'Operation Reunion', a scheme negotiated with the USSR and other East European countries, was designed to reunite settlers in Australia with relatives. The operation resulted in around 30,000 arrivals from the countries and regions of Yugoslavia, Poland, Hungary, USSR, Romania, Czechoslovakia and Bulgaria.

Australia modified conditions for easier entry and stay for migrants of non-European descent.

An uprising in Hungary led to the arrival of 14,000 refugees in Australia.

1957

To encourage more British migration, the 'Bring out a Briton' campaign was launched. The community was encouraged to take responsibility for sponsoring particular British families and assist them to settle.

Non-Europeans with fifteen years residence in Australia were allowed to become Australian citizens.

A 'Bring Out a Britain' campaign family at home before departure (1957)

Hungarian refugees disembark from the 'Castel Felice' at Port Melbourne (1957)

1958

The *Revised Migration Act 1958* introduced a simpler system of entry permits and abolished the controversial Dictation Test.

In an agreement with Britain, British migrants were given equal rights with Australia-born citizens for social service benefits. Non-British migrants faced more difficult requirements for the same benefits.

Assisted passage agreement with West Germany was renewed. Agreement with Spain negotiated via ICEM.

1959

Australian citizens could now sponsor non-European spouses and unmarried minor children for migration.

The first migrants arrived under the 'Nest Egg' scheme. This scheme offered assisted passage to Britons who had more than 500 pounds sterling and were prepared to make their own accommodation arrangements.

1961

The Italian Government refused to renew the assisted migration scheme and it did not start again until 1967.

1962

Armenians in Egypt became eligible for unassisted migration but were entitled to post arrival assistance such as accommodation.

1963

The Spanish Government suspended assisted migration from Spain to Australia following unemployment problems in Australia. However, negotiations led to some limited movement of Spanish workers under specific conditions.

Eligibility for unsponsored unassisted migration was no longer restricted to certain nationalities, but was determined by the individual merits of the applicants.

1964

Conditions of entry for people of mixed descent were further relaxed.

1965

New migration agreements with West Germany and the Netherlands were signed and a
new ICEM agreement was negotiated with Malta.

Australia bound families at Waterloo Station (1965)

**A New Emphasis for Immigration Policy
1966–1977**

Population passed 14 million.

1966

After a comprehensive review of non-European migration policy, the Government announced that applications from those wishing to settle in Australia would be considered on the basis of their suitability as settlers, their ability to integrate readily, and possession of qualifications useful to Australia. At the same time, a number of non-Europeans who had been admitted as 'Temporary Residents' could become residents and citizens after five years (ie. the same as for Europeans) instead of fifteen years. This enabled them to bring their families to Australia much earlier.

The introduction of a 'Special Passage Assistance Program (SPAP)' facilitated migration for guest workers who had finished their European work contracts. It included migrants from Scandinavia, Switzerland, France and the Americas. It became the largest single program outside the British–Australia scheme with 11,000 settlers in its first year.

1967

The British assisted passage agreement was renewed for another five years.

A new migration settlement agreement with Italy was signed.

A migration agreement for assisted passage of Turkish workers and their dependents was negotiated.

1968

Victims of earthquakes in Sicily came to Australia.

The Warsaw Pact Intervention in Czechoslovakia brought refugees.

1969

Public concern over Australia's capacity to integrate migrants grew as the Migration Program reached a peak of 185,000.

Victims of earthquakes in Sicily settle into suburbia in Launceston (1968)

Migrants from the ship 'The Britanis' passing through customs at Station Pier, Melbourne (1971)

1971

The Government lowered the planned Migration Program to 140,000 from its previous levels of around 170,000, in response to the end of a long economic boom.

1972

The Government sought to completely dismantle the White Australia Policy. The focus of immigration policy became the economy, employment, housing, and social service support. Priority for admission was given to close dependent relatives and limited numbers of workers in occupations for which there was unmet demand.

The migration intake for 1972–73 had been planned for 140,000 but the new Government reduced the planned level to 110,000.

1973

The Government took further steps to remove race as a factor in Australia's immigration policies, however these steps had very little impact on the number of migrants from non-European countries because of overall reduced migrant intakes.

All migrants became eligible to obtain citizenship after three years of residence.

The Australian Government accepted refugees from Chile following the overthrow of the Allende Government.

British arrivals at Brisbane (1973)

1974
The 1974–75 Migration Program was reduced to 80,000 because of increasing unemployment.

Displaced persons from Cyprus were accepted after the Turkish occupation of northern Cyprus.

1975
The planned migrant intake was reduced to 50,000, the lowest since World War Two.

The Government declared immigration as an essential instrument of population policy and broader national strategies guided by humanity, equity, and compassion and by Australia's capacity to successfully integrate migrants. It also committed to the preservation of a culturally diverse but cohesive society.

1976
The new Government increased the size of the Migration Program to 70,000.

Amnesty was offered and approved for nearly 8,000 visitors who had overstayed their visitor visas at the end of 1975. This encouraged subsequent visitors to overstay. As a result controls on entry were tightened.

Australia accepted Indo-Chinese refugees from Thailand.

Australia assisted people affected by civil conflict in Lebanon.

During 1976 and 1977 Australia accepted refugees from forty countries.

The first of the small refugee boats arrived on Australian shores. It contained five refugees from Viet Nam.
Two more refugee boats arrived in the year.

1977
The *Australian Population and Immigration Council* presented to parliament a paper with scenarios of immigration intake ranging from 30,000 to 200,000 producing net gains ranging from zero to 100,000 per annum. The paper also drew attention to emigration and its repercussions. In response to the paper the public and Government supported moderate to high levels of population growth through immigration.

A new refugee policy was announced covering assessment and handling of refugee situations. Special provision was made for handling evacuees from places such as East Timor, Cyprus and Lebanon where, although not strictly refugee situations, humanitarian action was warranted.

In the second half of the year an increasing number of small boats carrying Indo-Chinese refugees arrived along Australia's northern coast. Twenty four of these boats arrived in the year.

'The Australis' in Melbourne on its last voyage (1977)

Fishing boats bring refugees to Darwin (1977)
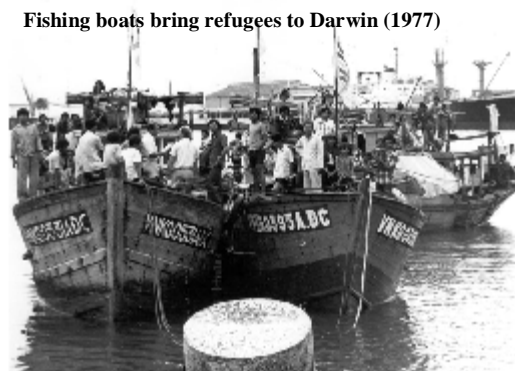
Population Development is an Important Backbone of Immigration Policy 1978–1984

Population passed 15 million.

1978

Following wide public debate, new immigration policies were developed to provide a framework for Australia's population development. The features included relaxation of the criteria for family reunion, a more consistent approach to migrant selection and an emphasis on attracting people who would be a positive gain to Australia. It also committed to three year plans to replace annual immigration targets, an average net gain of 70,000 per annum and the application of immigration policy without discrimination.

Increased effort was put into detection and deportation of an increasing number of illegal entrants and overstayers.

The categories of visitors eligible to apply for a change of status to that of permanent residence were tightened following widespread abuse of this facility.

1979

There was a continued outflow of refugees from Viet Nam including boats reaching Australia's northern coast. After assessment by Australian officials, airlifts to Australia from crowded refugee camps in Southeast Asia were arranged for refugees. The 'Australian Refugee Advisory Council' was established to recommend improvements in the way Australia handled this increasing number of refugees.

A disastrous journey's end in the South China Sea (1979)

The 'Numerical Multifactor Assessment System (NUMAS)' was introduced. This immigrant selection assessment system gave weight to factors such as family ties and occupational and language skills as indicators of the likelihood of successful settlement.

The first family assessed by the NUMAS (1979)

1980

Requirements for the entry of relatives and friends of Australian citizens were relaxed. The mechanism for this was lower NUMAS pass requirements concerning economic factors for prospective migrants with family or friends in Australia who were prepared to assist in their settlement.

Commonwealth, State and Territory Ministers agreed to support immigration at around 80,000 but emphasised the need for skilled people in high demand occupations.

1981

All travellers entering Australia were now required to carry a passport. This was to curb abuse of the previously undocumented travel between Australia and New Zealand.

A *Review of Commonwealth Functions* recommended that assisted passages be terminated for all migrants except refugees.

A fishing boat carrying 146 people who claimed to be refugees from Viet Nam, arrived in Darwin. They were subsequently found to be fee-paying passengers attempting to enter illegally.

The 'Special Humanitarian Program' was announced to provide a humanitarian response to people with close relatives in Australia who were suffering substantial discrimination or human rights violations but could not be accommodated in the existing refugee programs.

1982

The Migration Program was reduced by 15,000 and other changes were made in response to a tightening labour market.

Australia and Viet Nam developed an agreement for an 'Orderly Departure Program' from Viet Nam.

A Vietnamese family reunited by the Orderly Departure Program (1982)

A new migrant selection system (replacing NUMAS) came into force. The new system strongly favoured applicants with skills and personal qualities of benefit to Australia, and those with close family here.

1983

The Government resolved to steer a middle course of a planned Migration Program of between 80,000 and 90,000.

Refugees were accepted from El Salvador, Sri Lanka and Lebanon.

1984

Concerns over the proportion of immigrants from Asian regions were defended by the Government as being a consequence of a non-discriminatory Migration Program.

The Government approved changes to improve the Business Migration Program.

Overseas visitors began to climb sharply. Between 1983–84 and 1984–85 there was only a 7 per cent increase but between 1984–85 and 1985–86 (1,300,750) there was a 19 per cent increase. Sustained growth in visitor arrival numbers of this magnitude had not occurred earlier but it was a feature of the remainder of the1980s.

**Economics is a Major Focus of Immigration Policy
1985–1995**

Population passed 18 million

1985

There was increasing recognition of the importance of the positive effects of economic migration.

Australia maintained a strong commitment to assisting refugees.

A major study, *The Economic Effects of Immigration on Australia* was released. It pointed to many positive effects of immigration. Taking these findings into account the Government increased the planned Migration Program to 84,000 settlers and supported a program that was carefully designed to bring in people who did not compete with the unemployed for jobs.

1986

The Migration Program accelerated markedly. After revision, the Minister announced a planned intake for 1986–87 of 115,000. This increased intake was designed to maintain economic development, and to emphasise those who were bringing skills, business expertise and capital to Australia. Declining fertility and the prospect of an ageing population also influenced the planning of the Migration Program.

New 'Independent' and 'Concessional' categories in the Migration Program were introduced to allow extended family members to migrate provided they qualified in relation to employability, age, education and skills.

All migrants were now offered a three-year resident return visa to help business migrants in particular return to their country of origin to transfer operations to Australia.

1987

The 1987–88 Migration Program was set at 120,000.

The 'Skills Transfer Scheme', which was designed to facilitate short-term entry of executives and specialists, was introduced.

Promoting the Business Migration Program Overseas (1988)

1988

Report of the *Committee to Advise on Australia's Immigration Policies* (CAAIP) recommended reforms. These reforms included the division of the Migration Program into three streams – 'Family', 'Skill' and 'Humanitarian', the development of a research capacity, better procedures to achieve the numbers set by the Migration Program and revision of the migration categories to realise national social and economic objectives.

The *National Office of Overseas Skills Recognition* was established as part of major reforms to the system of overseas skills recognition.

1989

The planned Migration Program reached a peak of 145,000 for 1989–90.

Following the Tiananmen Square incident in China, Chinese citizens, who were normally resident in China but legally temporarily resident in Australia, were permitted to remain until July 1990. This was later extended to June 1994.

A small boat carrying 26 people arrived illegally from Cambodia.

1990

Planning levels for the 1990–91 Migration Program were set at 126,000, a reduction on the 1989–90 program.

Visitors from Sri Lanka, Lebanon, Iraq and Kuwait were given permission to extend their time in Australia due to unsettled situations in their countries. There were several further extensions to these periods of stay.

1991

The 1991–92 Migration Program was reduced to 111,000.

To encourage the development of an export oriented education industry new arrangements for student entry came into effect.

Because of a tightening labour market the 'Priority Occupations List', used in the selection of points tested migrants, was reduced from eleven occupations to four.

1992

The planning level for the 1992–93 Migration Program was reduced by 31,000 from the previous years program to 80,000. Labour market and English proficiency issues were given greater importance in the design of the program.

Several unauthorised boats entered Australia mainly carrying Chinese nationals.

Within the Humanitarian Program, Special Assistance visas were granted to 4,000 applicants belonging to ethnic minorities from the former Soviet Union and to Yugoslav, Croat, East Timorese and Lebanese applicants.

Two new visa classes were introduced to provide for State and Territory Governments to sponsor limited numbers of 'Business Skills' migrants.

Visitors from Sri Lanka, Croatia, Slovenia and the former Yugoslavia were given extended periods of stay because of unrest in their respective regions.

The *Migration Reform Act 1992* was introduced.

1993

The shift continued to people coming to Australia for short-term purposes and a Migration Program built around specific objectives rather than large-scale immigration.

One of the main focuses of the then *Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs* became the balance between facilitating the entry of bona fide visitors and migrants and the control of those entrants to the country who did not meet the requirements of immigration law.

Business migration policy was refined and visas issued under the Business Skills category tripled.

The '1 November' decision to provide access to permanent residence to people temporarily in Australia was directed primarily at Chinese nationals who had been on four-year temporary entry permits and faced uncertainty about their future in Australia. By August 1994, around 49,700 people had applied.

1994

Within the Humanitarian Program, over 5,000 former Yugoslavs and nearly 3,000 persons from the Middle East were resettled in Australia in 1994–95.

Significant numbers of people, who had already been determined by United Nations endorsed processes not to be refugees, arrived by boat.

An inquiry into Australia's long term population strategies and carrying capacity was established.

1995

For the first time New Zealand-born people became the largest group of settler arrivals, overtaking settlers from the United Kingdom.

There was substantial growth in applications for Business Skills migration following a revamping of conditions and an upturn in economic activity.
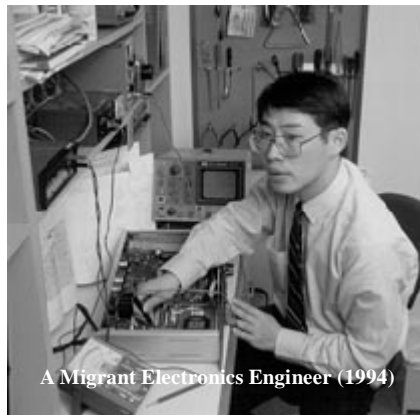
A Migrant Electronics Engineer (1994)

Migration Planning Becomes More Focused on Labour Market Issues 1996–2000

Population passed 19 million

1996

The planned Migration (non-Humanitarian) Program was reduced from 82,500 to 74,000. The skilled intake was increased from about 29 per cent in 1995–96 to about 38 per cent in 1996–97. The Humanitarian Program was set at 12,000 places in the 1996–97 program year.

1997

The temporary entry of tourists, business people, students and working holiday makers exceeded 10 million movements into and out of Australia each year, growing at an annual rate of 10 per cent.

More emphasis was given to the Skill stream. The 1997–98 Migration (Non-Humanitarian) Program was set at 68,000, of which 52 per cent were in the Skill stream. This involved the creation of a new 'Skilled-Australian Linked' category, which was derived from the former 'Concessional Family' category but with more stringent criteria.

A waiting period of two years was introduced before migrants could obtain social security income support payments.

1998

The Humanitarian Program responded, to the *United Nations High Commission for Refugees* (UNHCR) assessments of need, by resettling people from the former Yugoslavia region, the Middle East and Africa.

People from Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon, China, Sri Lanka and the former Yugoslavia, who were temporarily in Australia, were offered residency in a one-off provision.

Considerable success was achieved in reducing the number of unauthorised boat arrivals through dialogue with source countries.

For the first time the number of overseas visitors arriving in Australia for a long-term stay (twelve months or more) passed 100,000.

1999

Permanent departures reached the highest level since 1973–74. The departure of Australia-born people was the second highest ever recorded and began an increasing trend for the Australia-born to emigrate.

Humanitarian resettlement priorities were the former Yugoslavia, the Middle East, Southwest Asia and Africa.

A new points test for skilled migrants was developed, favouring migrants with skills in demand.

2000

The 'Employer Nomination Scheme' and Business Skills categories were amended to increase Australia's competitiveness for these migrants in an environment of globalisation of the workforce.

Policy changes enabled overseas students who have studied in Australia to apply onshore to migrate permanently.

Temporary entry to Australia continued to increase. There were around ten per cent increases in visa issues for students, visitors, working holiday makers and long-term skilled business entry.

2001

From 26 February 2001, most New Zealand citizens are required to obtain a permanent residence visa if they wish to access social security payments or Australian citizenship. The new arrangements brought into line the treatment of New Zealand citizens with the position of other migrants while retaining the ability of Australian and New Zealand citizens to easily visit, work, study and live in each other's country.

The 2001–02 Migration (non-Humanitarian) Program included 45,500 places in the Skill Stream, which was 54 per cent of the total program. This was the highest number for the Skill Stream over the past decade.

Country of Birth

- The proportion of the Australian population that was born overseas declined from a high of 22.7 per cent in 1901 to a century low of 9.8 per cent in 1947. This was despite some attempts at growth in immigration by the Government during the first half of the century. The effect of two World Wars and the Depression had a greater impact. Between 1947 and 1971, as the post World War Two resettlement and expansion program came into effect, the country experienced a rapid increase in the proportion of overseas-born. Since 1971 the overseas-born proportion has remained relatively steady at 20 to 22 per cent, around the same level as it was at the beginning of the century.

Figure 1:   Overseas-born as a Percentage of the Total Australian Population
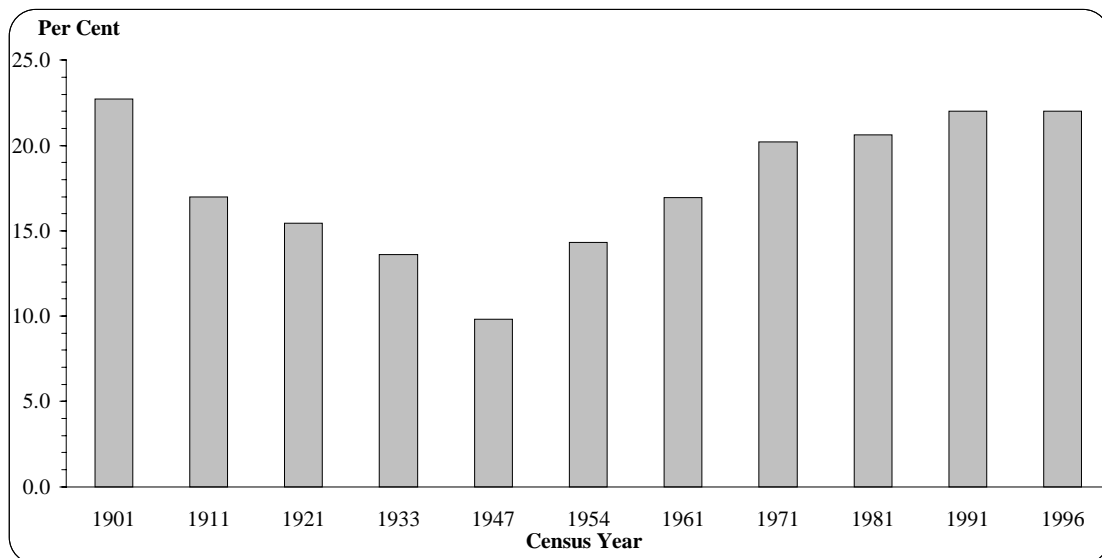
- The Australian population, in terms of country of birth, has become increasingly more diverse through the century. This diversity is reflected in the content of Table 1. The 23 overseas countries individually identified on the first page of Table 1 accounted for around 95 per cent of the total overseas-born at each Census from 1901 to 1947 but by 1996 these same countries had dropped to 77 per cent. From the 1954 Census onwards the Australian population became more diverse, as post World War Two resettlement and the dismantling of the White Australia Policy took effect. In order to accommodate this increasing diversity the countries tabulated on the second page of Table 1 were increased to include new countries of birth that rose to prominence in the second half of the century.

- The United Kingdom has been the largest overseas-born birthplace group in the Australian population for all of the 20th century. However, as a proportion of the total overseas-born, the United Kingdom-born are in decline. The United Kingdom comprised 58 per cent of the total overseas-born in 1901and only 27 per cent in 1996.

- An even greater decline has occurred for the Ireland-born. In 1901, the Ireland-born were the second largest overseas-born birthplace group at 22 per cent of all overseas-born. In 1996 the Ireland-born had decreased to 1 per cent of all overseas-born.

- Of particular note are the dramatic increases in the overseas-born population that occurred between 1947 and 1954 as a result of post-war resettlement of persons from European countries such as Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland and Yugoslavia.

- Another period of noticeable increases was between 1981 and 1991, particularly for those born in Fiji, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, the Philippines and Viet Nam. These increases were a result of the application of Australia's non-discriminatory migration policy. The individual circumstances of some of these countries are discussed in detail in the selected country summaries starting on page 32.

- There were rapid declines in both the number and proportion of people born in China and Germany during the first half of the century. The number of German-born declined from 38,352 in 1901 to 14,567 in 1947 and as a proportion of the overseas-born they dropped from 4.5 per cent to 2.0 per cent. This decline reflected an antagonism towards Germans during the time of World War One and World War Two. The number of China-born declined from 29,907 in 1901 to 6,404 in 1947 and proportionately from 3.5 per cent of the overseas-born population to 0.9 per cent. This effect was due to the implementation of the White Australia Policy. Both these countries are discussed in more detail in the selected country summaries starting on page 32.

Table 1: **Birthplace* of the Australian Population for Selected Censuses**

Birthplace	Population at Census Year											
	1901	%#	1911	%#	1921	%#	1933	%#	1947	%#	1954	%#
Australia (a)	2,908,303	..	3,667,670	..	4,581,663	..	5,726,566	..	6,835,171	..	7,700,064	..
China	29,907	3.5	20,775	2.7	15,224	1.8	8,579	0.9	6,404	0.9	10,277	0.8
Denmark	6,281	0.7	5,663	0.7	6,002	0.7	4,484	0.5	2,759	0.4	2,954	0.2
Egypt	108	-	147	-	362	-	561	0.1	803	0.1	8,150	0.6
Germany	38,352	4.5	32,990	4.4	22,396	2.7	16,842	1.9	14,567	2.0	65,422	5.1
Greece	878	0.1	1,798	0.2	3,654	0.4	8,337	0.9	12,291	1.7	25,862	2.0
Hong Kong	167	-	413	0.1	337	-	236	-	762	0.1	1,554	0.1
Hungary	(b)	na	(b)	na	148	-	272	-	1,227	0.2	14,602	1.1
India	7,637	0.9	6,644	0.9	6,918	0.8	6,774	0.7	(f)8,160	1.1	11,955	0.9
Ireland (i)	184,085	21.5	139,434	18.4	105,033	12.5	78,652	8.7	44,813	6.0	38,170	3.0
Italy	5,678	0.7	6,719	0.9	8,135	1.0	26,756	3.0	33,632	4.5	119,897	9.3
Lebanon	(e)1,498	0.2	(e)1,527	0.2	(e)1,803	0.2	(e)2,020	0.2	(e)1,886	0.3	3,861	0.3
Malaysia	(b)	na	782	0.1	630	0.1	866	0.1	1,768	0.2	2,279	0.2
Malta	(b)	na	248	-	1,325	0.2	2782	0.3	3,238	0.4	19,988	1.6
Netherlands	594	0.1	745	0.1	1,391	0.2	1,274	0.1	2,174	0.3	52,035	4.0
New Zealand	25,788	3.0	31,868	4.2	38,611	4.6	45,963	5.1	43,610	5.9	43,350	3.4
Philippines	689	0.1	444	0.1	329	-	234	-	141	-	217	-
Poland	(b)	na	(b)	na	1,780	0.2	3,239	0.4	6,573	0.9	56,594	4.4
South Africa	(c)1,500	0.2	3,883	0.5	5,408	0.6	6,179	0.7	5,866	0.8	5,971	0.5
Sri Lanka	609	0.1	611	0.1	637	0.1	638	0.1	(f)	na	1,961	0.2
Sweden	(d)9,863	1.2	5,586	0.7	5,025	0.6	3,895	0.4	2,209	0.3	2,191	0.2
USA	7,448	0.9	6,642	0.9	6,604	0.8	6,066	0.7	6,232	0.8	8,289	0.6
United Kingdom (i)	495,074	57.7	451,288	59.6	568,370	67.7	633,806	70.2	496,454	66.7	626,035	48.7
Yugoslavia	(b)	na	(b)	na	829	0.1	3,969	0.4	5,866	0.8	22,856	1.8
Other Overseas	41,420	4.8	38,658	5.1	38,628	4.6	40,849	4.5	42,752	5.7	141,996	11.0
Total Overseas	**857,576**	**100.0**	**756,865**	**100.0**	**839,579**	**100.0**	**903,273**	**100.0**	**744,187**	**100.0**	**1,286,466**	**100.0**
Not Stated	7,922	..	30,470	..	14,492	..	(j)	..	(j)	..	(j)	..
Total Population	**3,773,801**	**..**	**4,455,005**	**..**	**5,435,734**	**..**	**6,629,839**	**..**	**7,579,358**	**..**	**8,986,530**	**..**

(a) Prior to the 1971 Census excludes full-blood Aborigines. Prior to the 1996 Census does not include Norfolk Island, Christmas Island or the Cocos (Keeling) Islands. Excludes only Norfolk Island in the 1996 Census.
(b) Not separately recorded. Included in Other Overseas.
(c) Although the South African Union had not been formed in 1901, the countries of which the Union was composed have been grouped together.
(d) Sweden and Norway recorded together.
(e) Lebanon and Syria recorded together.
(f) India and Sri Lanka (Ceylon) recorded together.
(g) Country no longer exists.
(h) Excludes overseas visitors.
(i) Prior to the 1954 Census persons born in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland are recorded together under Ireland.
(j) Distributed after further analysis.
* The list of significant countries recorded in the Census has expanded since the first half of the 20th Century.
# percentages are of the Overseas-born.

Table 1: **Birthplace* of the Australian Population for Selected Censuses**

Birthplace	Population at Census Year									
	1961	%#	1971	%#	1981	%#	1991(h)	%#	1996(h)	%#
Australia (a)	8,729,406	..	10,176,320	..	11,393,861	..	12,717,917	..	13,227,775	..
Austria	23,807	1.3	23,941	0.9	22,805	0.8	21,646	0.6	20,570	0.5
Canada	5,990	0.3	12,838	0.5	17,690	0.6	22,502	0.6	25,130	0.6
Chile	na	na	3,760	0.1	13,977	0.5	24,042	0.7	23,805	0.6
China	14,488	0.8	17,601	0.7	26,760	0.9	77,799	2.1	110,987	2.8
Cyprus	8,576	0.5	13,267	0.5	23,332	0.8	22,180	0.6	20,667	0.5
Czechoslovakia	12,132	0.7	16,602	0.6	16,152	0.5	17,684	0.5	(h)	..
Denmark	5,654	0.3	7,566	0.3	7,911	0.3	8,975	0.2	8,976	0.2
Egypt	16,287	0.9	28,226	1.1	30,645	1.0	33,140	0.9	34,139	0.9
Fiji	2,674	0.2	4,015	0.2	9,360	0.3	30,125	0.8	37,135	1.0
Germany	109,315	6.1	110,811	4.3	110,758	3.7	111,975	3.0	110,332	2.8
Greece	77,333	4.3	160,200	6.2	146,625	4.9	136,028	3.7	126,524	3.2
Hong Kong	3,544	0.2	5,583	0.2	15,717	0.5	57,510	1.6	68,437	1.8
Hungary	30,553	1.7	29,160	1.1	27,987	0.9	27,046	0.7	25,301	0.6
India	14,166	0.8	29,211	1.1	41,657	1.4	60,958	1.7	77,522	2.0
Indonesia	6,018	0.3	7,981	0.3	12,463	0.4	32,688	0.9	44,157	1.1
Ireland	37,057	2.1	41,854	1.6	45,784	1.5	51,642	1.4	51,462	1.3
Italy	228,296	12.8	289,476	11.2	275,883	9.2	253,332	6.9	238,216	6.1
Korea	(b)	na	(b)	na	4,512	0.2	20,383	0.6	30,088	0.8
Latvia	16,451	0.9	14,478	0.6	12,061	0.4	9,301	0.3	8,040	0.2
Lebanon	7,253	0.4	24,218	0.9	49,623	1.7	68,787	1.9	70,237	1.8
Malaysia	5,793	0.3	14,945	0.6	31,598	1.1	71,665	1.9	76,221	2.0
Malta	39,337	2.2	53,681	2.1	57,001	1.9	53,858	1.5	50,871	1.3
Netherlands	102,083	5.7	99,295	3.8	96,044	3.2	94,692	2.6	87,898	2.2
New Zealand	47,011	2.6	80,466	3.1	176,713	5.9	264,094	7.2	291,381	7.5
Papua New Guinea	3,361	0.2	8,903	0.3	18,695	0.6	23,293	0.6	24,357	0.6
Philippines	430	-	2,550	0.1	15,431	0.5	73,144	2.0	92,933	2.4
Poland	60,049	3.4	59,700	2.3	59,441	2.0	68,496	1.9	65,119	1.7
Singapore	2,759	0.2	5,532	0.2	11,990	0.4	24,021	0.7	29,503	0.8
South Africa	7,896	0.4	12,655	0.5	26,965	0.9	49,009	1.3	55,717	1.4
Sri Lanka	3,433	0.2	9,091	0.4	16,966	0.6	37,263	1.0	47,000	1.2
Sweden	2,674	0.2	3,725	0.1	4,404	0.1	5,636	0.2	6,072	0.2
Turkey	1,544	0.1	11,589	0.4	24,314	0.8	27,770	0.8	28,860	0.7
United Kingdom	718,345	40.4	1,046,356	40.6	1,086,625	36.2	1,107,119	30.0	1,072,514	27.4
USA	10,810	0.6	30,035	1.2	32,620	1.1	43,783	1.2	49,526	1.3
USSR	15,673	0.9	15,210	0.6	16,954	0.6	(g)	..	(g)	..
Ukraine	13,873	0.8	12,450	0.5	10,941	0.4	9,001	0.2	13,460	0.3
Viet Nam	(b)	na	(b)	na	41,096	1.4	121,813	3.3	151,085	3.9
Yugoslavia	49,776	2.8	129,816	5.0	149,335	5.0	160,479	4.4	(g)	..
Other Overseas	74,339	4.2	142,531	5.5	214,999	7.2	366,249	9.9	634,025	16.2
Total Overseas	**1,778,780**	**100.0**	**2,579,318**	**100.0**	**3,003,834**	**100.0**	**3,689,128**	**100.0**	**3,908,267**	**100.0**
Not Stated	(j)	..	(j)	..	178,635	..	363,590	..	616,840	..
Total Population	**10,508,186**	**..**	**12,755,638**	**..**	**14,576,330**	**..**	**16,770,635**	**..**	**17,752,882**	**..**

(a) Prior to the 1971 Census excludes full-blood Aborigines. Prior to the 1996 Census does not include Norfolk Island, Christmas Island or the Cocos (Keeling) Islands. Excludes only Norfolk Island in the 1996 Census.
(b) Not separately recorded. Included in Other Overseas-born.
(c) Although the South African Union had not been formed in 1901, the countries of which the Union was composed have been grouped together.
(d) Sweden and Norway recorded together.
(e) Lebanon and Syria recorded together.
(f) India and Sri Lanka (Ceylon) recorded together.
(g) Country no longer exists.
(h) Excludes overseas visitors.
(i) Prior to the 1954 Census persons born in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland are recorded together under Ireland.
(j) Distributed after further analysis.
* The list of significant countries recorded in the Census has expanded since the first half of the 20th Century.
# percentages are of the Overseas-born.

Top Ten Countries of Birth

- The United Kingdom has remained the largest overseas birthplace throughout the 20th century although as a proportion of the total overseas-born it has declined significantly. As observed in Table 1, the United Kingdom was 58 per cent of the overseas-born in 1901 but had declined by more than half to 27 per cent in 1996.

- From 1901 to 1947 Ireland was the second largest source of migrants to Australia.

Figure 2: United Kingdom-born as a Percentage of the Overseas-born Population
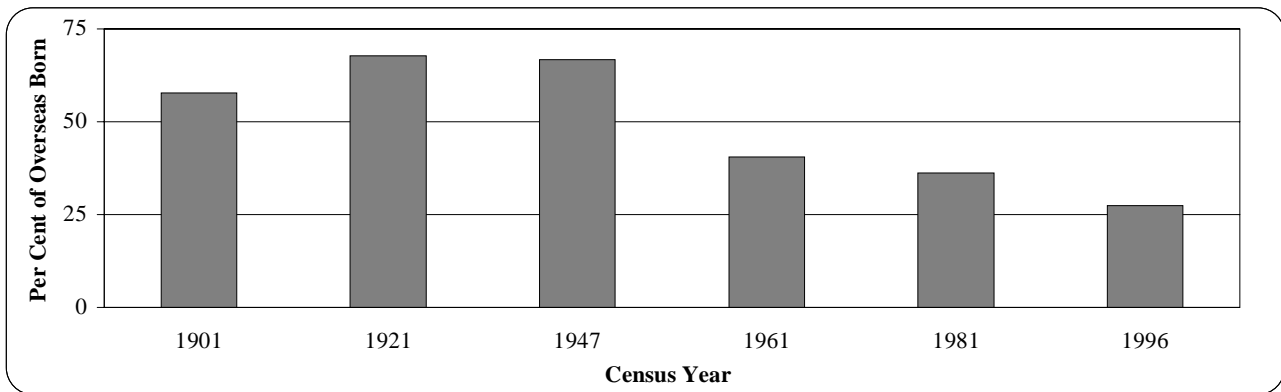
Figure 3: Selected Countries of Birth as a Percentage of the Overseas-born Population
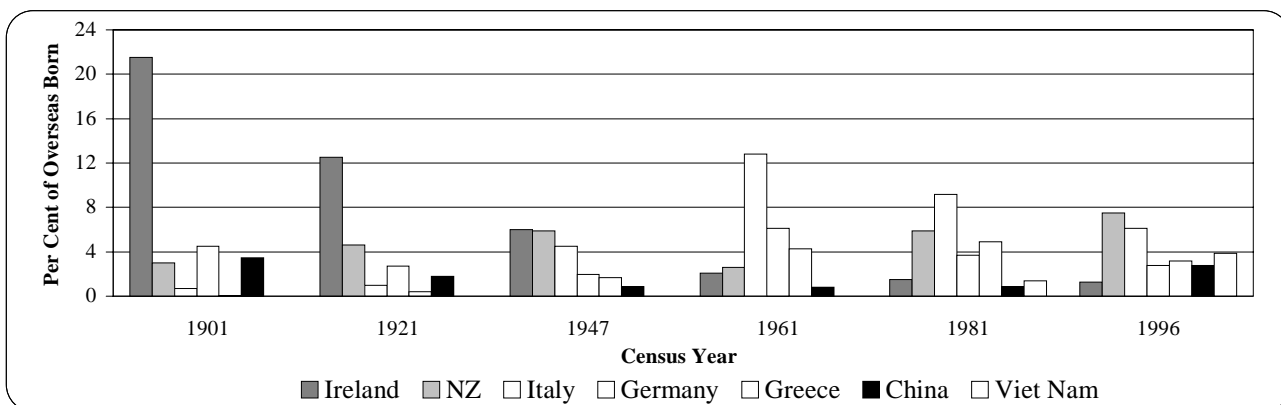
- In 1901 the top ten countries made up around 95 per cent of all the overseas-born with the United Kingdom and Ireland making up 79 per cent. With the increasing diversity brought about by the post war efforts to increase the size of Australia's population and the abolition of the White Australia Policy, the top ten countries made up an increasingly smaller proportion of all overseas-born. In 1996, they were only 60 per cent of the overseas-born.

- The effect of the post-war expansion program is reflected in the make-up of the top ten countries in 1961. The United Kingdom has dropped significantly as a proportion of the overseas-born and other countries from Europe have increased. Countries that did not appear in 1947 or before that, but did in 1961, were the Netherlands (4th), Yugoslavia (7th) and Malta (9th).

- In 1996, some source countries from the Asian regions re-emerged, namely China, the Philippines and India.

- The only countries that have remained in the top ten countries throughout the century were the United Kingdom, New Zealand, Italy and Germany.

Table 2:   Top Ten Countries of Birth at Selected Censuses of the 20th Century

	1901 Census			1921 Census	
Birthplace	No.	%	Birthplace	No.	%
1. United Kingdom	495,074	57.7	1. United Kingdom	568,370	67.7
2. Ireland	184,085	21.5	2. Ireland	105,033	12.5
3. Germany	38,352	4.5	3. New Zealand	38,611	4.6
4. China	29,907	3.5	4. Germany	22,396	2.7
5. New Zealand	25,788	3.0	5. China	15,224	1.8
6. Sweden and Norway	9,863	1.2	6. Italy	8,135	1.0
7. India	7,637	0.9	7. India	6,918	0.8
8. USA	7,448	0.9	8. USA	6,604	0.8
9. Denmark	6,281	0.7	9. Denmark	6,002	0.7
10. Italy	5,678	0.7	10. South Africa	5,408	0.6
Top Ten Total	810,113	94.5	Top Ten Total	782,701	93.2
Other	47,463	5.5	Other	56,878	6.8
Total Overseas Born	857,576	100.0	**Total Overseas Born**	839,579	100.0
	1947 Census			1961 Census	
Birthplace	No.	%	Birthplace	No.	%
1. United Kingdom	496,454	66.7	1. United Kingdom	718,345	40.4
2. Ireland	44,813	6.0	2. Italy	228,296	12.8
3. New Zealand	43,610	5.9	3. Germany	109,315	6.1
4. Italy	33,632	4.5	4. Netherlands	102,083	5.7
5. Germany	14,567	2.0	5. Greece	77,333	4.3
6. Greece	12,291	1.7	6. Poland	60,049	3.4
7. India and Sri Lanka (Ceylon)	8,160	1.1	7. Yugoslavia	49,776	2.8
8. Poland	6,573	0.9	8. New Zealand	47,011	2.6
9. China	6,404	0.9	9. Malta	39,337	2.2
10. USA	6,232	0.8	10. Ireland	37,057	2.1
Top Ten Total	672,736	90.4	Top Ten Total	1,468,602	82.6
Other	71,451	9.6	Other	310,178	17.4
Total Overseas Born	744,187	100.0	**Total Overseas Born**	1,778,780	100.0
	1981 Census			1996 Census	
Birthplace	No.	%	Birthplace	No.	%
1. United Kingdom	1,086,625	36.2	1. United Kingdom	1,072,514	27.4
2. Italy	275,883	9.2	2. New Zealand	291,381	7.5
3. New Zealand	176,713	5.9	3. Italy	238,216	6.1
4. Yugoslavia	149,335	5.0	4. Viet Nam	151,085	3.9
5. Greece	146,625	4.9	5. Greece	126,524	3.2
6. Germany	110,758	3.7	6. China	110,987	2.8
7. Netherlands	96,044	3.2	7. Germany	110,332	2.8
8. Poland	59,441	2.0	8. Philippines	92,933	2.4
9. Malta	57,001	1.9	9. Netherlands	87,898	2.2
10. Lebanon	49,623	1.7	10. India	77,522	2.0
Top Ten Total	2,208,048	73.5	Top Ten Total	2,359,392	60.4
Other	795,786	26.5	Other	1,548,875	39.6
Total Overseas Born	3,003,834	100.0	**Total Overseas Born**	3,908,267	100.0

Net Overseas Migration

Net Overseas Migration[4] (NOM) is a measure of the net addition or loss to Australia's resident population from migration.

- The first decade of the 20th century was characterised by low levels of NOM, which is probably partly related to the lingering effects of the depression of the late 19th century.

- By the second decade NOM was growing rapidly, reaching a peak of 91,892 in 1912. This came to a sudden end when World War One was declared. The data show a century low of –128,737 in 1916 that was largely due the departure of soldiers to serve in the war (it is not possible to separate troop movements from other movements during the period). Shortly after, in 1919 there was a sharp peak in NOM of 166,303, which reflects the movement of returning soldiers.

- In the 1920s vigorous pursuit of immigration produced a rising NOM, culminating at 49,401 in 1927.

- A period of low NOM occurred during the 1930s and most of the 1940s. During the Great Depression (1929–1937) there was virtually no immigration. This was followed shortly after by World War Two when immigration ceased again.

- The immediate and substantial response by Australia to post World War Two resettlement of Europeans produced the most substantial rise in NOM of the century (excluding the return of troops from World War One). NOM rose to 153,685 in 1950. After this immediate response NOM dropped back to 42,883 in 1953. It then stabilised (with some fluctuations) at the high levels last seen early in the second decade of the century as Australia once again pursued a vigorous immigration program. NOM peaked at 140,331 in 1969 as the planned intake for the year was at a peak of 185,000.

- By 1975 the Migration Program had been progressively cut back after public concern with the high levels of immigration reached in the late 1960s. The planned intake had been reduced to 50,000 and NOM was at 13,515, the lowest in the second half of the century. After 1975, NOM began to generally climb again. However, in a response to a tightening labour market during a recession in the early 1980s, the Migration Program was reduced and a short period of reduced NOM resulted, with the lowest point being 1983 (54,995). The general tendency towards high and increasing intakes after World War Two, peaked at a NOM of 172,794 in 1988, the highest for the century and the result of a Migration Program set at 145,000.

- From the peak in 1988, the planning level for the Migration Program was progressively reduced until a low of 80,000 in 1992–93 and, coupled with an economic downturn, this resulted in a NOM of 34,822 in 1993. From 1992–93 until the end of the century the Migration Program has remained relatively stable in terms of total numbers of between 62,000 to 83,000. During this time there has been a shift in the components of the Migration Program towards immigrants with skills. In the second half of the last decade of the 20th century, NOM was over 70,000 and in some years over 100,000 as an upturn in economic activity made Australia an attractive destination.

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[4] The current, definition of NOM is net permanent and long term overseas migration (including net movement of Australian residents) plus an adjustment for 'Category Jumping'. Category Jumping has been factored into NOM since 1976. It is the term used to describe changes to travel intentions from short term to permanent or long term or vice versa. Before 1976, proxies are used for NOM because available data do not allow calculation according to the precise definition. The discussion refers to these proxies as NOM prior to 1976 because the proxies are close enough to NOM to allow consistent analysis of trends.

Figure 4: Net Overseas Migration[4] 1901–1999
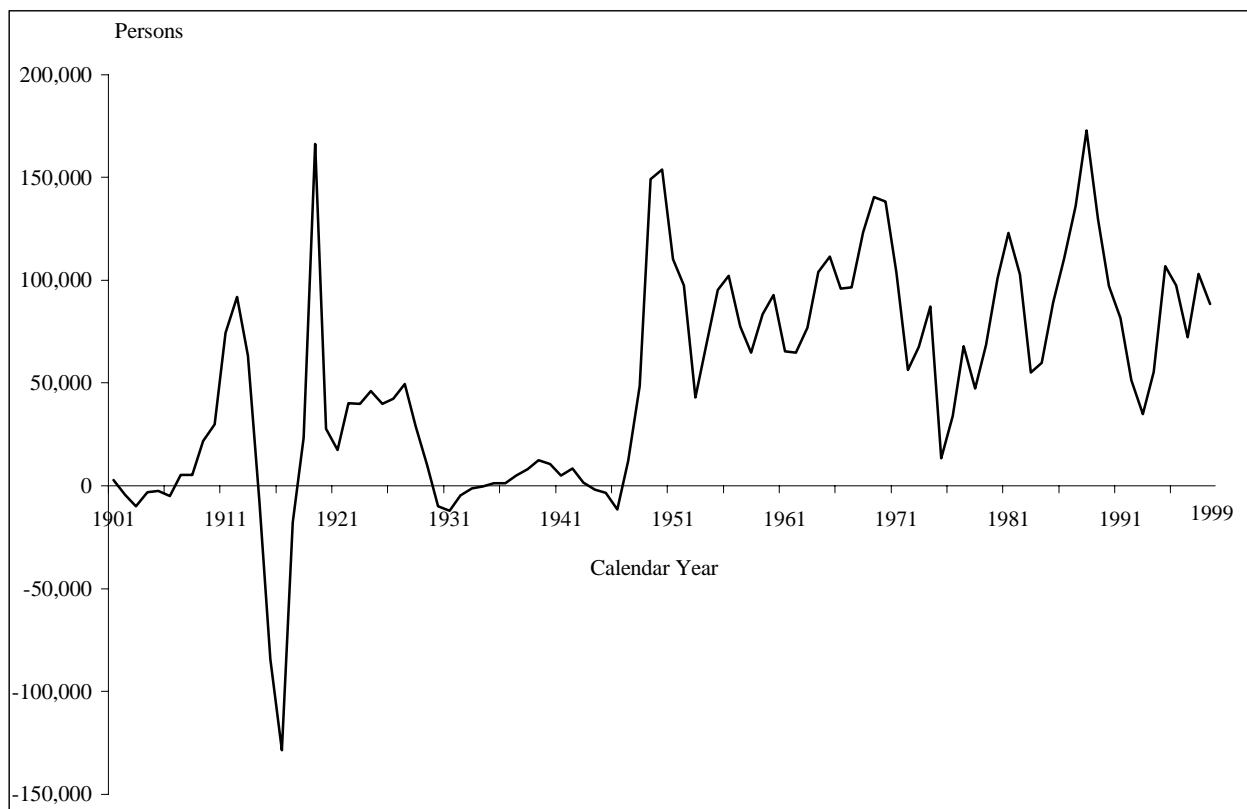
Table 3: Net Overseas Migration[4], 1901–1999

Year	Number	Year	Number	Year	Number	Year	Number	Year	Number
1901	2,959	1921	17,525	1941	5,136	1961	65,439	1981	123,066
1902	-4,293	1922 [(a)]	40,157	1942	8,536	1962	64,638	1982	102,709
1903	-9,876	1923	39,714	1943	1,587	1963	76,844	1983	54,995
1904	-2,983	1924	46,069	1944	-1,761	1964	103,999	1984	59,823
1905	-2,600	1925 [(b)]	39,762	1945	-3,273	1965	111,609	1985	89,319
1906	-5,049	1926	42,282	1946	-11,589	1966	95,931	1986	110,661
1907	5,195	1927	49,401	1947	12,186	1967	96,558	1987	136,093
1908	5,437	1928	28,864	1948	48,468	1968	123,452	1988	172,794
1909	21,783	1929	10,087	1949	149,270	1969	140,331	1989	129,478
1910	29,912	1930	-9,833	1950	153,685	1970	138,382	1990	97,131
1911	74,379	1931	-12,117	1951	110,362	1971	103,553	1991	81,669
1912	91,892	1932	-4,608	1952	97,454	1972	56,320	1992	51,358
1913	63,227	1933	-1,364	1953	42,883	1973	67,494	1993	34,822
1914	-8,226	1934	-388	1954	68,565	1974	87,248	1994	55,506
1915	-84,410	1935	1,251	1955	95,317	1975	13,515	1995	106,864
1916	-128,737	1936	1,283	1956	102,105	1976 [(c)]	33,997	1996	97,444
1917	-17,822	1937	5,075	1957	77,622	1977	68,030	1997	72,365
1918	23,359	1938	8,145	1958	64,879	1978	47,394	1998	103,100
1919	166,303	1939	12,527	1959	83,578	1979	68,611	1999	p 88,352
1920	27,606	1940	10,676	1960	92,776	1980	100,940	2000	p104,482

(a)   Prior to July 1922 crew members were included.
(b)   Prior to July 1925 figures are total overseas arrivals and departures from Australia. From July 1925 figures are Net Permanent and Long Term migration.
(c)   From July 1976 onwards includes an adjustment for category jumping.
Source (from 1925): ABS, Australian Historical Population Statistics (3195.0.65.001) – Table 58.
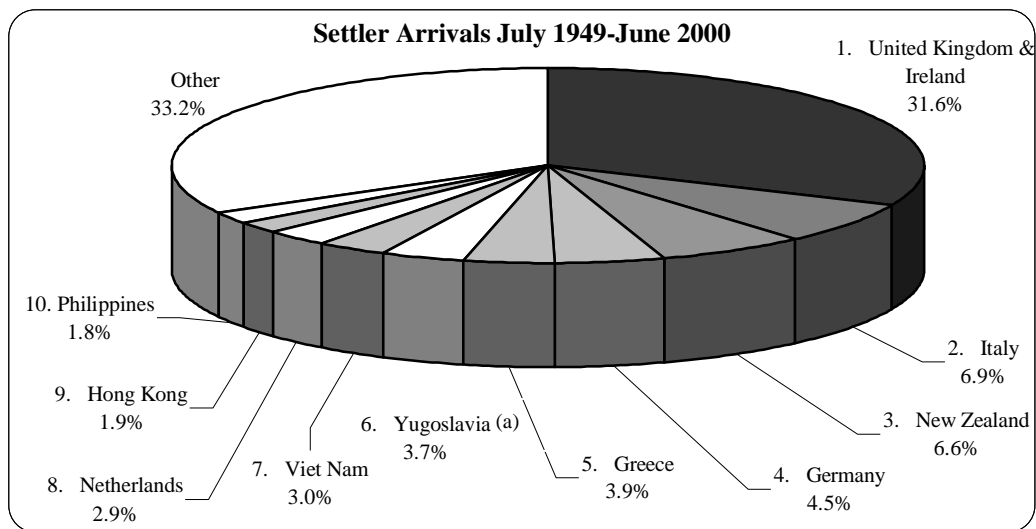p   Preliminary.

Settler Arrivals since the Second World War

Almost 6 million immigrants have settled in Australia since the Second World War.

Most decades since the war have seen over 1 million immigrants arrive, with over 1 and a quarter million arriving in the 1950s and nearly one and a half million arriving in the 1960s.

Nearly one-third of all post-war immigrants came from the United Kingdom and Ireland. The next largest source countries were Italy (6.9), New Zealand (6.6%), Germany[5] (4.5%), Greece (3.9%), Yugoslavia[6] (3.7%) and Viet Nam (3.0%).

Settler Arrivals July 1949-June 2000

Other 33.2%
1. United Kingdom & Ireland 31.6%
2. Italy 6.9%
3. New Zealand 6.6%
4. Germany 4.5%
5. Greece 3.9%
6. Yugoslavia (a) 3.7%
7. Viet Nam 3.0%
8. Netherlands 2.9%
9. Hong Kong 1.9%
10. Philippines 1.8%

(a) The data for Yugoslavia only cover the years up to mid 1995, as subsequent data are separated into the countries formed from the former Yugoslav Republics.

Apart from the dominance of the United Kingdom, the main source countries have shifted from mainly European countries in the 1950s and 1960s to non-European countries in the 1980s and 1990s. The top ten source countries for each decade since the War are listed in Table 4.

Australia's policy of accepting predominantly Anglo-Celtic immigrants was relaxed immediately after the Second World war due to labour shortages, an inability to attract sufficient immigrants from the United Kingdom and the existence of several million displaced persons from Eastern Europe. The White Australia Policy was gradually dismantled until by the mid-1970s it was totally abolished, allowing much larger numbers of immigrants from non-European countries[7].

In the 1990s, the United Kingdom lost its top spot for the first time to New Zealand. The next largest source countries in this period were Hong Kong, China and Viet Nam. Interestingly, South Africa has emerged as the fourth largest source country behind New Zealand, United Kingdom and China for each of the last three years.

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[5] The data for Germany are inflated because data prior to 1959 are based on country of last residence, and most immigrants arriving from Germany after World War Two were displaced persons who were not born in Germany.

[6] The data for Yugoslavia only cover the years up to mid-1995, as subsequent data are separated into the countries formed from the former Yugoslav Republics.

[7] Hugo, Graeme, *A Century of Population Change in Australia*, ABS Year Book Australia, 2001.

Table 4:   Top 10 Countries of Birth* of Settler Arrivals July 1949 – June 2000

July 1949 - June 1959			July 1959 - June 1970[#]		
Country of Last Residence	No.	%	Birthplace	No.	%
1. United Kingdom & Ireland	419,946	33.5	1. United Kingdom & Ireland	654,640	45.3
2. Italy	201,428	16.1	2. Italy	150,669	10.4
3. Germany	162,756	13.0	3. Greece	124,324	8.6
4. Netherlands	100,970	8.1	4. Yugoslavia	94,555	6.5
5. Greece	55,326	4.4	5. Germany	50,452	3.5
6. Malta	38,113	3.0	6. Netherlands	36,533	2.5
7. Austria	33,730	2.7	7. New Zealand	30,341	2.1
8. New Zealand	29,649	2.4	8. Malta	28,916	2.0
9. USA	16,982	1.4	9. USA	20,467	1.4
10. Egypt	13,430	1.1	10. Spain	17,611	1.2
Top Ten Total	1,072,330	85.6	Top Ten Total	1,208,508	83.6
Other	180,753	14.4	Other	236,848	16.4
Total Permanent and LT* Arrivals	1,253,083	100.0	**Total Settler Arrivals**	1,445,356	100.0

July 1970 - June 1980			July 1980 - June 1990		
Birthplace	No.	%	Birthplace	No.	%
1. United Kingdom & Ireland	342,373	35.8	1. United Kingdom	226,448	20.9
2. Yugoslavia	61,283	6.4	2. New Zealand	133,231	12.3
3. New Zealand	58,163	6.1	3. Viet Nam	88,852	8.2
4. Lebanon	32,207	3.4	4. Philippines	51,064	4.7
5. Greece	30,907	3.2	5. Malaysia	36,827	3.4
6. Viet Nam	30633	3.2	6. Hong Kong	36,198	3.3
7. Italy	28,800	3.0	7. South Africa	29,458	2.7
8. USA	27,769	2.9	8. China	24,651	2.3
9. Turkey	18,444	1.9	9. Poland	23,676	2.2
10. India	17,910	1.9	10. India	21,532	2.0
Top Ten Total	648,489	67.8	Top Ten Total	671,937	62.0
Other	308,280	32.2	Other	412,255	38.0
Total Settler Arrivals	956,769	100.0	**Total Settler Arrivals**	1,084,192	100.0

July 1990 - June 2000			July 1949 - June 2000		
Birthplace	No.	%	Birthplace	No.	%
1. New Zealand	120,299	13.3	1. United Kingdom & Ireland (b)	1,780,989	31.6
2. United Kingdom	112,468	12.5	2. Italy	390,810	6.9
3. Hong Kong	55,276	6.1	3. New Zealand	371,683	6.6
4. China	52,426	5.8	4. Germany	255,930	4.5
5. Viet Nam	51,505	5.7	5. Greece	220,603	3.9
6. Philippines	39,644	4.4	6. Yugoslavia (a)	206,554	3.7
7. India	37,148	4.1	7. Viet Nam	170,990	3.0
8. South Africa	30,222	3.4	8. Netherlands	161,298	2.9
9. Yugoslavia (a)	20,139	2.2	9. Hong Kong	108,181	1.9
10. Malaysia	18,916	2.1	10. Philippines	103,310	1.8
Top Ten Total	538,043	59.7	Top Ten Total	3,770,348	66.8
Other	363,195	40.3	Other	1,870,290	33.2
Total Settler Arrivals	901,238	100.0	**Total Settler Arrivals**	5,640,638	100.0

(a) Yugoslavia recorded until 1994 –95 inclusive.
(b) The United Kingdom and Ireland are combined for the July 1949–June 2000 total.
* Settler arrivals by birthplace data are not available prior to 1959. For the period July 1949 to June 1959, Permanent and Long Term Arrivals by Country of Last Residence have been included as a proxy for this data. When interpreting this data for some countries, it should be noted that in the period immediately after World War II, there were large numbers of displaced persons whose country of last residence was not necessarily the same as their birthplace.
# This group contains 11 financial years.

Table 5:   **Country of Birth* of Settler Arrivals Oct. 1945 – June 2000**

Financial Years in 5 Year Groups

	Permanent and Long Term Arrivals by Country of Last Residence						Settler Arrivals by Birthplace					
	Oct 45-Jun 49	%	1949-54	%	1954-59	%	1959-65#	%	1965-70	%	1970-75	%
Austria	2,826	1.4	13,603	2.1	20,127	3.3	6,515	1.0	3,857	0.5	2,231	0.4
Canada	1,480	0.8	2,399	0.4	6,015	1.0	3,624	0.5	4,943	0.6	8,509	1.4
Chile(a)	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	3,205	0.5
China	3,812	1.9	4,327	0.7	3,964	0.7	3,529	0.5	1,943	0.2	2,249	0.4
Cyprus	1,212	0.6	4,441	0.7	2,601	0.4	2,311	0.3	3,711	0.5	5,882	1.0
Czechoslovakia	1,033	0.5	2,071	0.3	254	-	758	0.1	6,115	0.8	1,068	0.2
Denmark	279	0.1	1,125	0.2	3,481	0.6	1,595	0.2	3,930	0.5	2,473	0.4
Egypt	3,057	1.6	6,489	1.0	6,941	1.2	5,822	0.9	7,324	0.9	5,254	0.9
Fiji	672	0.3	1,205	0.2	1,931	0.3	412	0.1	670	0.1	1,174	0.2
Germany	31,235	16.0	122,890	18.9	39,866	6.6	31,791	4.8	18,661	2.4	11,859	1.9
Greece	3,125	1.6	12,445	1.9	42,881	7.1	68,324	10.3	56,000	7.2	25,044	4.1
Hong Kong	1,012	0.5	3,132	0.5	3,632	0.6	499	0.1	1,469	0.2	2,508	0.4
Hungary	-	-	489	0.1	12,058	2.0	3,046	0.5	1,809	0.2	1,419	0.2
India	7,922	4.0	3,650	0.6	2,447	0.4	3,307	0.5	12,308	1.6	13,331	2.2
Indonesia	1,697	0.9	3,943	0.6	1,970	0.3	1,215	0.2	974	0.1	854	0.1
Italy	7,463	3.8	96,563	14.8	104,865	17.4	87,920	13.2	62,749	8.0	22,193	3.6
Korea	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Lebanon	151	0.1	2,216	0.3	2,640	0.4	3,774	0.6	11,342	1.5	13,847	2.3
Malaysia	2,613	1.3	3,188	0.5	5,662	0.9	1,692	0.3	2,935	0.4	4,727	0.8
Malta	2,603	1.3	17,553	2.7	20,560	3.4	19,050	2.9	9,866	1.3	8,183	1.3
Netherlands	1,521	0.8	51,355	7.9	49,615	8.2	24,633	3.7	11,900	1.5	6,639	1.1
New Zealand	9,523	4.9	13,844	2.1	15,805	2.6	8,707	1.3	21,634	2.8	18,321	3.0
Papua New Guinea	1,187	0.6	3,736	0.6	7,105	1.2	634	0.1	909	0.1	3,139	0.5
Philippines	378	0.2	467	0.1	693	0.1	384	0.1	796	0.1	2,739	0.4
Poland	3,648	1.9	6,194	1.0	3,056	0.5	8,807	1.3	3,568	0.5	2,356	0.4
Singapore	-	-	1,801	0.3	4,151	0.7	714	0.1	1,396	0.2	3,506	0.6
South Africa	1,240	0.6	2,059	0.3	1,726	0.3	4,681	0.7	3,107	0.4	6,581	1.1
Sri Lanka	167	0.1	1,673	0.3	1,605	0.3	2,483	0.4	3,301	0.4	6,762	1.1
Sweden	250	0.1	720	0.1	604	0.1	941	0.1	2,143	0.3	2,699	0.4
Turkey	20	-	135	-	329	0.1	641	0.1	7,203	0.9	13,451	2.2
UK & Ireland (c)	86,350	44.1	227,286	34.9	192,660	32.0	285,528	43.0	369,112	47.3	252,812	41.3
USA	6,386	3.3	7,205	1.1	9,777	1.6	6,746	1.0	13,721	1.8	21,621	3.5
USSR	880	0.4	668	0.1	87	-	2,593	0.4	710	0.1	812	0.1
Viet Nam	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Yugoslavia	722	0.4	3,534	0.5	7,173	1.2	31,086	4.7	63,469	8.1	53,119	8.7
Other	11,207	5.7	28,593	4.4	25,803	4.3	40,582	6.1	67,437	8.6	81,423	13.3
Total	**195,671**	**100.0**	**650,999**	**100.0**	**602,084**	**100.0**	**664,344**	**100.0**	**781,012**	**100.0**	**611,990**	**100.0**

(a) Included with 'Other' prior to January 1974.
(b) Country no longer exists.
(c) United Kingdom and Ireland presented together prior to mid-1975.
* Settler arrivals by birthplace data are not available prior to 1959. For the period October 1945 to June 1959, Permanent and Long Term Arrivals by Country of Last Residence have been included as a proxy for this data. When interpreting this data for some countries, it should be noted that in the period immediately after World War II, there were large numbers of displaced persons whose country of last residence was not necessarily the same as their birthplace.
\# This group contains 6 financial years.

Table 5:   Country of Birth* of Settler Arrivals Oct. 1945 – June 2000

Financial Years in 5 Year Groups

Settler Arrivals by Birthplace

	1975-80	%	1980-85	%	1985-90	%	1990-95	%	1995-2000	%
Austria	861	0.2	1,260	0.3	1,111	0.2	606	0.1	501	0.1
Canada	3,390	1.0	4,347	0.9	5,121	0.8	3,919	0.8	3,773	0.9
Chile	6,170	1.8	3,591	0.8	8,113	1.3	1,952	0.4	884	0.2
China	4,766	1.4	8,651	1.8	16,000	2.6	16,138	3.5	36,288	8.3
Cyprus	6,817	2.0	1,670	0.4	2,054	0.3	413	0.1	341	0.1
Czechslovakia	967	0.3	3,516	0.8	2,135	0.3	1,179	0.3	(b)	(b)
Denmark	964	0.3	2,312	0.5	1,889	0.3	1,021	0.2	548	0.1
Egypt	1,363	0.4	1,508	0.3	4,865	0.8	3,519	0.8	1,946	0.4
Fiji	1,993	0.6	3,188	0.7	10,990	1.8	9,006	1.9	7,863	1.8
Germany	4,771	1.4	11,981	2.6	6,275	1.0	3,836	0.8	4,000	0.9
Greece	5,863	1.7	3,960	0.8	3,723	0.6	1,365	0.3	998	0.2
Hong Kong	5,467	1.6	8,745	1.9	27,453	4.5	40,442	8.7	14,834	3.4
Hungary	906	0.3	2,170	0.5	2,232	0.4	777	0.2	454	0.1
India	4,579	1.3	7,691	1.6	13,841	2.2	20,793	4.5	16,355	3.7
Indonesia	2,293	0.7	6,030	1.3	6,385	1.0	5,035	1.1	10,894	2.5
Ireland	3,364	1.0	4,887	1.0	12,569	2.0	3,902	0.8	3,756	0.9
Italy	6,607	1.9	4,703	1.0	2,525	0.4	1,543	0.3	1,142	0.3
Korea	2,206	0.6	2,726	0.6	7,616	1.2	4,474	1.0	3,402	0.8
Lebanon	18,360	5.3	6,076	1.3	14,887	2.4	7,811	1.7	5,622	1.3
Malaysia	8,364	2.4	10,260	2.2	26,567	4.3	12,781	2.8	6,135	1.4
Malta	2,180	0.6	3,340	0.7	1,883	0.3	380	0.1	227	0.1
Netherlands	3,947	1.1	7,076	1.5	2,733	0.4	1,426	0.3	1,974	0.5
New Zealand	39,842	11.6	50,739	10.8	82,492	13.4	39,673	8.6	80,626	18.4
Papua New Guinea	2,420	0.7	1,925	0.4	1,319	0.2	748	0.2	700	0.2
Philippines	7,523	2.2	14,814	3.2	36,250	5.9	24,331	5.3	15,313	3.5
Poland	2,364	0.7	15,521	3.3	8,155	1.3	5,814	1.3	1,946	0.4
Singapore	3,120	0.9	3,275	0.7	7,983	1.3	3,766	0.8	3,994	0.9
South Africa	10,219	3.0	12,416	2.7	17,042	2.8	8,825	1.9	21,397	4.9
Sri Lanka	2,333	0.7	5,217	1.1	12,511	2.0	11,010	2.4	6,824	1.6
Sweden	560	0.2	1,052	0.2	1,569	0.3	1,104	0.2	665	0.2
Turkey	4,993	1.4	3,794	0.8	5,638	0.9	3,877	0.8	3,213	0.7
United Kingdom	86,197	25.0	119,463	25.5	106,985	17.4	64,347	13.9	48,121	11.0
USA	6,148	1.8	8,417	1.8	9,519	1.5	8,037	1.7	6,520	1.5
USSR	4,300	1.2	1,544	0.3	3,491	0.6	7,228	1.6	(b)	(b)
Viet Nam	30,633	8.9	49,950	10.7	38,902	6.3	39,022	8.4	12,483	2.8
Yugoslavia	8,164	2.4	7,128	1.5	12,742	2.1	20,139	4.4	(b)	(b)
Other	39,765	11.5	63,109	13.5	90,575	14.7	82,366	17.8	114,894	26.2
Total	**344,779**	**100.0**	**468,052**	**100.0**	**616,140**	**100.0**	**462,605**	**100.0**	**438,633**	**100.0**

(a) Included with 'Other' prior to January 1974.
(b) Country no longer exists.
(c) United Kingdom and Ireland presented together prior to 1975.
* Settler arrivals by birthplace data are not available prior to 1959. For the period October 1945 to June 1959, Permanent and Long Term Arrivals by Country of Last Residence have been included as a proxy for this data. When interpreting this data for some countries, it should be noted that in the period immediately after World War II, there were large numbers of displaced persons whose country of last residence was not necessarily the same as their birthplace.
# This group contains 6 financial years.

Sex Ratios (Males per 100 Females)

The sex ratio of the Australia-born has remained fairly constant over the past century, falling from 100 in 1901 to 97 in 1996. It has been steady at 97 over the past three decades, reflecting the fact that females live longer than males.

In contrast, the sex ratio of the overseas-born has fallen from 151 to 99 over the past century. This ratio has only recently fallen below 100, as a result of the number of female immigrants exceeding males over the past two decades.

There were extremely high sex ratios for some birthplace groups at the turn of the century eg China (7,491), the Philippines (5,642), Greece (1,294) and Sweden/Norway (904). These high ratios were based on relatively low numbers, the exception being the China-born.

In 1901, there were 29,513 males and only 394 females in the China-born group. Most of this group came to Australia as a result of the great goldrushes in the mid to late nineteenth century. At the end of the nineteenth century about one-third of the China-born were miners and another third were market gardeners. Most of the females were children, while only about 150 were wives, mainly those of wealthier merchants[8].

By 1996, some birthplace groups still had relatively high sex ratios eg Denmark (124), Hungary (116), Austria (115) and Italy (113). The typical trend with European waves of immigrants in the 1950s and 1960s was that, in the first few years, males clearly outnumbered females, after which the sex ratio for immigrants became balanced.

A typical example was the Italy-born, where in the eight years from 1948–49 male immigrants outnumbered female immigrants by more than two to one. The usual pattern was that male immigrants would come to Australia first, and later some would send for their brides-to-be or wives. By the late 1950s, there were substantial numbers of single women among Italy-born immigrants[9].

The Greece-born were an exception. Up until the Second World War, the sex ratio for the Greece-born was significantly higher than most other European groups. However, post-war immigration evened out this imbalance more quickly than for other European groups. In the first three years of their wave in the mid-1950s, males outnumbered females by more than two to one, but then females outnumbered males for the remainder of the wave right through to the 1970s.

In comparison with earlier migrant groups, many of the more recent groups have had low sex ratios, eg in 1996, the Philippines (53), Singapore (87), Malaysia (89) and China (93). For these countries, the period of the early to mid-90s was one where the majority of immigrants came under the Preferential Family category. For some of these years, countries such as the Philippines and China had females outnumbering males by more than two to one in the Preferential Family category.

Other countries, which also had low sex ratios in 1996, included Ukraine (87), Papua New Guinea (88) and Fiji (88).

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[8] Price, Charles A., *The Great White Walls Are Built*, ANU Press, 1974.

[9] Bureau of Immigration and Population Research, *Community Profiles: 1991 Census*, 1994.

Table 6: Sex Ratios of Countries of Birth at Selected Censuses

Birthplace	Males per 100 Females at Census Year										
	(f)1901	(f)1911	(f)1921	(f)1933	(f)1947	(f)1954	(f)1961	1971	1981	(g)1991	(g)1996
Australia (a)	100	101	99	99	98	98	98	98	97	97	97
Austria	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	131	121	118	116	115
Canada	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	124	112	99	94	94
Chile	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	105	97	96	94
China	7,491	6,352	4,071	1,592	405	234	171	117	100	113	93
Cyprus	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	144	123	105	105	104
Czechoslovakia	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	188	158	147	130	(c)
Denmark	310	305	294	295	280	258	194	156	140	126	124
Egypt	238	213	114	109	105	117	110	110	105	105	105
Fiji	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	106	103	97	92	88
Germany	187	193	171	180	160	106	111	103	99	97	95
Greece	1,294	1,612	621	366	287	185	129	109	105	105	104
Hong Kong	476	612	311	138	112	147	231	136	107	96	96
Hungary	(b)	(b)	261	249	134	163	144	135	130	120	116
India	389	317	256	204	(i)180	122	130	107	100	100	105
Indonesia	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	144	125	113	103	99
Ireland (Republic)	(e)	(e)	(e)	(e)	(e)	131	130	117	112	107	107
Italy	604	471	345	300	202	203	144	123	119	115	113
Korea	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	196	117	93	92
Latvia	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	122	117	112	100	93
Lebanon	(h)193	(h)142	(h)132	(h)133	(h)122	173	141	150	116	111	108
Malaysia	(b)	523	298	271	142	201	206	135	102	93	89
Malta	(b)	231	739	398	323	164	135	122	116	112	110
Netherlands	616	630	318	264	264	137	125	123	117	113	109
New Zealand	111	112	107	108	101	100	99	106	103	104	103
Papua New Guinea	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	109	107	96	94	88
Philippines	5,642	2,120	928	550	188	117	130	87	54	53	53
Poland	(b)	(b)	210	147	127	170	154	139	125	103	96
Singapore	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	171	124	92	86	87
South Africa	(d)122	105	106	112	110	109	106	96	94	96	95
Sri Lanka	368	340	228	181	(i)	132	116	108	99	101	101
Sweden	(j)904	1,013	940	855	715	530	350	188	133	110	105
Turkey	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	109	112	111	110	108
United Kingdom	(e)128	(e)133	(e)120	(e)123	(e)117	117	112	107	103	101	101
USA	234	203	167	143	156	155	147	132	117	109	107
USSR	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	85	79	79	(c)	(c)
Ukraine	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	140	135	122	103	87
Viet Nam	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	118	110	99
Yugoslavia	(b)	(b)	453	499	270	210	184	136	120	114	(c)
Other Overseas	386	302	226	206	152	141	135	122	105	100	99
Total Overseas	**151**	**152**	**134**	**135**	**127**	**133**	**125**	**114**	**108**	**102**	**99**
Not Stated	142	117	132	(k)	(k)	(k)	(k)	(k)	119	105	98
Total Population	**110**	**108**	**103**	**103**	**100**	**102**	**102**	**101**	**99**	**99**	**98**

(a) Prior to the 1996 Census does not include Norfolk Island, Christmas Island or the Cocos (Keeling) Islands.
(b) Included in Other Overseas.
(c) Country no longer exists.
(d) Although the South African Union had not been formed in 1901,the countries of which the Union was composed have been grouped together.
(e) Prior to the 1954 Census persons born in the United Kingdom and Ireland are presented together in United Kingdom.
(f) Excludes full-blood Aborigines.
(g) Excludes OverseasVisitors.
(h) Lebanon and Syria recorded together.
(i) India and Sri Lanka (Ceylon) recorded together in India.
(j) Sweden and Norway recorded together.
(k) Distributed after further analysis.

Median Age

The median age of the Australia-born population rose from 20 in 1911 to 28 years in 1954, before falling over the next two decades. It again rose from 25 in 1971 to 30 as at the 1996 Census. This fluctuation in the median age was largely due to changes in the fertility rate. The median age has increased during periods of falling fertility, and has fallen during periods of increasing fertility.

Australia's fertility rate fell from the turn of the century until the Second World War. The 'post-war baby boom' saw the fertility rate peak at 3.6 in 1961. "This was a result initially of a catch-up factor among those who had delayed childbearing during the Depression and war, but it was sustained by near universal marriage, reduction in ages at marriage, low unemployment, availability of housing, reduced infecundity and immigration effects"[10]. The fertility rate then fell sharply over the next fifteen years, and has continued to fall slightly during the last two decades.

An underlying trend, resulting in increased median ages, is the increasing life expectancy experienced throughout the century by all developed countries. In more recent times, when fertility has only fallen slightly, the increase in Australian median ages has been mainly due to the decline in mortality.

The median age of the overseas-born population has gradually decreased from 49 in 1911 to 36 in 1971, apart from the effect of the Second World War period when immigration was very low. Since 1971, the median age of the overseas-born has increased to 44 in 1996. These changes reflect the level of immigration, with periods of high immigration resulting in lower median ages eg such as in the 1960s and early 1970s, which were peak immigration periods in Australia.
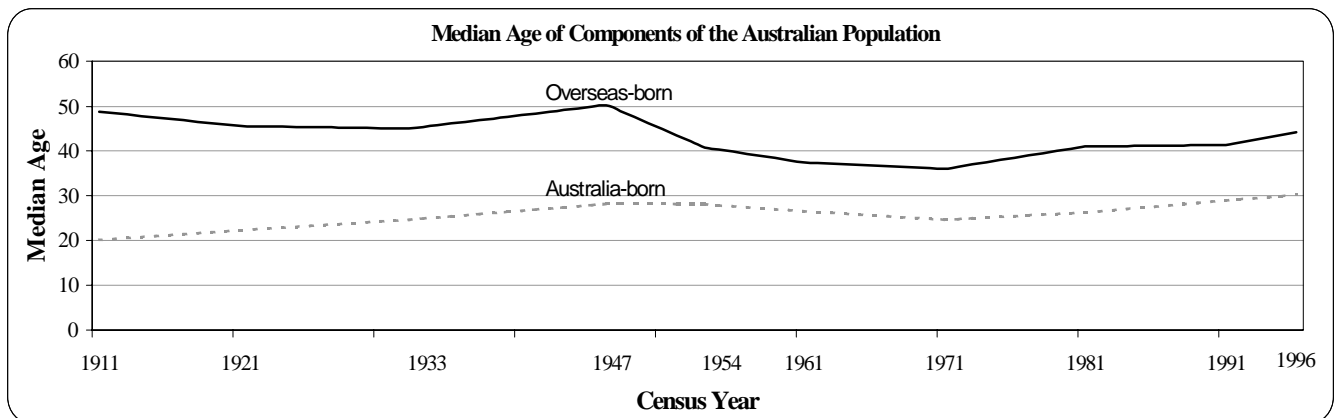
Immigrant groups have higher median ages the longer they have resided in Australia, mainly because their locally born children are counted among the Australia-born. The median ages of the overseas-born groups accord broadly with the various post-war immigration waves. The oldest groups are from Eastern Europe, then Northern and Southern Europe, while groups from the three Asian regions are the youngest[11]. For example, countries such as Latvia (70), Ukraine (69), Hungary (59), Italy (58) and Greece (55) have high median ages. This compares with more recent groups of young, skilled immigrants eg Singapore (30) and Hong Kong (31).

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[10] Hugo, Graeme, *A Century of Population Change in Australia*, ABS Year Book Australia, 2001.

[11] Benham, Christine & Gibson, Diane, *Independence in Ageing*, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 2000.

Table 7: Median Age of Countries of Birth at Selected Censuses

Birthplace	1901	(e)1911	(e)1921	(e)1933	(e)1947	(e)1954	(e)1961	1971	1981	(f)1991	(f)1996
Australia (a)	na	20	22	25	28	28	27	25	26	29	30
Austria	na	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	30	37	45	51	54
Canada	na	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	40	28	29	33	35
Chile	na	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	25	31	33	38
China	na	45	51	58	43	35	33	37	45	39	40
Cyprus	na	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	32	35	36	44	48
Czechoslovakia	na	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	38	43	51	49	(c)
Denmark	na	51	56	58	61	55	34	32	38	43	47
Egypt	na	30	25	27	33	29	33	36	43	47	50
Fiji	na	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	29	28	29	31	34
Germany	na	52	57	59	53	24	27	33	41	48	52
Greece	na	30	32	35	43	36	30	33	42	50	55
Hong Kong	na	39	44	34	23	24	24	24	27	28	31
Hungary	na	(b)	46	38	42	34	36	44	51	56	59
India	na	39	45	46	(h)42	37	39	35	39	41	41
Indonesia	na	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	29	35	35	33	32
Ireland (Republic)	na	(d)	(d)	(d)	(d)	53	49	44	45	44	47
Italy	na	34	37	34	43	31	32	37	46	54	58
Korea	na	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	31	30	29	29
Latvia	na	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	42	50	58	67	70
Lebanon	na	(g)34	(g)40	(g)43	(g)47	31	30	27	30	35	38
Malaysia	na	na	24	23	21	23	22	21	25	31	34
Malta	na	na	32	32	43	25	26	31	38	47	51
Netherlands	na	40	36	45	44	26	27	35	42	50	54
New Zealand	na	31	37	43	47	48	47	30	28	32	35
Papua New Guinea	na	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	13	14	17	24	29
Philippines	na	36	44	52	38	27	27	25	31	33	35
Poland	na	(b)	50	40	42	34	41	49	57	55	54
Singapore	na	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	22	22	26	31	30
South Africa	na	20	21	30	43	48	48	36	32	35	38
Sri Lanka	na	41	45	51	(h)	31	33	32	36	37	39
Sweden	na	48	54	57	60	56	40	31	35	36	37
Turkey	na	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	47	28	31	33	36
United Kingdom	na	(d)51	(d)46	(d)46	(d)52	49	46	38	41	46	49
USA	na	41	42	45	42	39	39	27	31	35	36
USSR	na	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	51	57	58	(c)	(c)
Ukraine	na	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	40	49	59	68	69
Viet Nam	na	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	22	30	34
Yugoslavia	na	na	35	34	44	34	32	32	39	46	(c)
Other Overseas	na	42	43	42	47	35	35	32	34	33	37
Total Overseas	**na**	**49**	**46**	**45**	**50**	**41**	**37**	**36**	**41**	**41**	**44**
Not Stated	na	40	40	(i)	(i)	(i)	(i)	(i)	34	29	32
Total Population	**na**	**24**	**26**	**28**	**31**	**30**	**29**	**28**	**30**	**32**	**34**

(a) Prior to the 1996 Census does not include Norfolk Island, Christmas Island or the Cocos (Keeling) Islands. Excludes only Norfolk Island in the 1996 Census.
(b) Included in Other Overseas.
(c) Country no longer exists.
(d) Prior to the 1954 Census persons born in the United Kingdom and Ireland are presented together in United Kingdom
(e) Excludes full-blood Aborigines.
(f) Excludes Overseas Visitors.
(g) Lebanon and Syria recorded together.
(h) India and Sri Lanka (Ceylon) recorded together in India.
(i) Distributed after further analysis.

Immigration and Population History of Selected Countries of Birth

Introduction

In this section the immigration histories of the seven chosen countries of birth are described from three different perspectives. The history of each country is described by a short textual history of the country of birth within Australia, by a table comparing key population statistics at the beginning and end of the century and by charts plotting demographic trends throughout the century.

The countries featured in this section have been selected to represent a variety of migration patterns. Each of the countries has also been in the top ten in the Australian population at some time during the century.

The primary sources of the historical summaries are the 'Community Profiles' from the 1991 and 1996 Censuses. These are recommended for more detailed historical summaries and extra statistical information that is not included here.

In order to compare the statistical status of each of the countries of birth at the beginning and end of the century, tables of key population statistics are included. They present data from the 1901 and 1996 Censuses.

The 'Demographic Trends' page for each country includes three graphs to illustrate the individuality of the trends undergone by each country of birth. The first graph shows the population of the country of birth in Australia from 1901 to 2000. The second graph plots the sex distribution of the country of birth in Australia at selected Censuses throughout the century. The third graph plots the median age of the country of birth in Australia from 1911 to 2000.

United Kingdom – *A Short Immigration History*

The United Kingdom-born has been the largest overseas-born group throughout the 20th century. This is because the United Kingdom was, prior to the last quarter of the century strongly favoured as a source country by immigrant selection policies and remained the largest single component of the annual immigration intake until 1995–96 when the intake of the New Zealand-born became greater.

The original United Kingdom was formed in 1801, a unification of a number of territories traditionally identified as 'The British Isles'. These territories included England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland and some close, administratively linked islands. In the early 1920s Ireland was partitioned with 26 of the mainly Catholic counties forming the Irish Free State and the other 6 counties remaining as part of the United Kingdom. In 1948 the Irish Free State adopted the name the Republic of Ireland and in 1949 left the British Commonwealth. As a consequence, it is only from the 1954 Australian Census that the Republic of Ireland can be separated from the United Kingdom. Hence, in the following discussion references to the United Kingdom-born prior to 1954 refer to those born in the United Kingdom excluding Ireland.

While the England-born has been the largest component of the United Kingdom-born, the importance of the Ireland-born (those born in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland), Scotland-born and Wales-born should not be underestimated. Up until the First World War the Ireland-born were, in their own right, the second largest immigrant population. Scotland then succeeded Ireland as the second largest.

The British Government initiated European settlement by establishing a penal colony in Sydney Cove. Between 1788 and 1868, about 160,000 convicts, of whom 85 per cent were male, were transported to the Australian colonies augmented by free settlers, including large numbers who arrived during the gold rush of the 1850s. In the second half of the nineteenth century, immigration to Australia was still largely from Britain and Ireland. Of the one million people who came to Australia between 1860 and 1900, almost all (95 per cent) were English, Irish or Scots.

At the beginning of the twentieth century the number of United Kingdom-born in the Australian population was in decline. In 1901 there were only 495,074 after a peak of 594,217 (19 per cent of the non-indigenous population) in 1891. The decline continued until 1911 when it fell to a low of 451,288.

With the exception of the period during the First World War, Australia was in favour of immigration during the early decades of the twentieth century. The effect of this can be observed as a steady rise in the United Kingdom-born in Australia between the 1911 (451,288) and 1933 (633,806) Censuses.

Between 1933 and 1947 the number of United Kingdom-born was again in decline because of the overall halt in immigration due to the Great Depression and World War Two.

Shortly after the Second World War the Australian Government adopted a reconstruction and expansion program. The basis of this program was that the annual intake of immigrants should be at least one per cent of the total population and priority should be given to attracting British immigrants. In 1946 and 1947, the Australian and British Governments entered into agreements to provide free and assisted passage to British ex-servicemen, selected civilians and their dependents. As a result the number of United Kingdom-born in Australia began to climb. There were 626,035 United Kingdom-born in 1954.

Other schemes to encourage migration from Britain during this time included the 'Bring Out a Briton' campaign, launched in 1957, under which employers and organisations were encouraged to sponsor particular families and assist in their settlement. By 1961 the number of United Kingdom-born had climbed to 718,345.

The most dramatic increase in the United Kingdom-born population occurred between 1961 and 1971. The number of persons born in the United Kingdom in Australia exceeded one million at the 1971 Census and has remained above one million ever since.

Up until the 1980s, assisted passage was provided for the overwhelming majority of post-war British migrants. The British Government withdrew from providing assistance in 1972 but the Australian Government continued until 1981. Until the mid-1970s, immigrants from the United Kingdom also received rights not available to other immigrants. For example: eligibility for citizenship after only 12 months residence; better assisted passage and hostel arrangements; ease of movement to and from Australia; and eligibility to vote without being Australian citizens. When these privileges ended it effectively ended almost 150 years of continuous public subsidy in Australia for British immigration and coincided with a noticeable decline in the number of British immigrants

The United Kingdom-born population in Australia reached a peak of 1,107,119 in 1991 but at the 1996 Census, this figure had declined to 1,072,514, a decrease of 3 per cent. This decline was largely due to the economic downturn of the early 1990s and the ageing of the United Kingdom-born population in Australia.

Since the end of the Second World War, the proportion of United Kingdom-born within Australia's immigration stream has continued to decline as Australia has looked to other countries for its immigrants. Thus in 1947 the United Kingdom-born was 67 per cent of the total overseas-born but only 27 per cent in 1996. This decline is further illustrated by the fact that the New Zealand-born overtook the United Kingdom-born as the largest group of settler arrivals in 1995–96.

United Kingdom – *Key Population Statistics at Federation and Century's End*

	1901 Census	1996 Census
Population in Australia	495,074[c]	1,072,514
% Overseas-born	57.7%	27.4%
% Total Australian Population	13.1%	6.0%
Rank by Size	1st	1st
Sex Ratio[a]	128[d]	101
Median Age (years)	51[b]	49

(a)　　　Males per 100 Females.
(b)　　　Median age at the 1911 Census. Median age at the 1901 Census is not available. Includes Ireland.
(c)　　　Excludes Ireland.
(d)　　　Includes Ireland.

United Kingdom – *Demographic Trends*
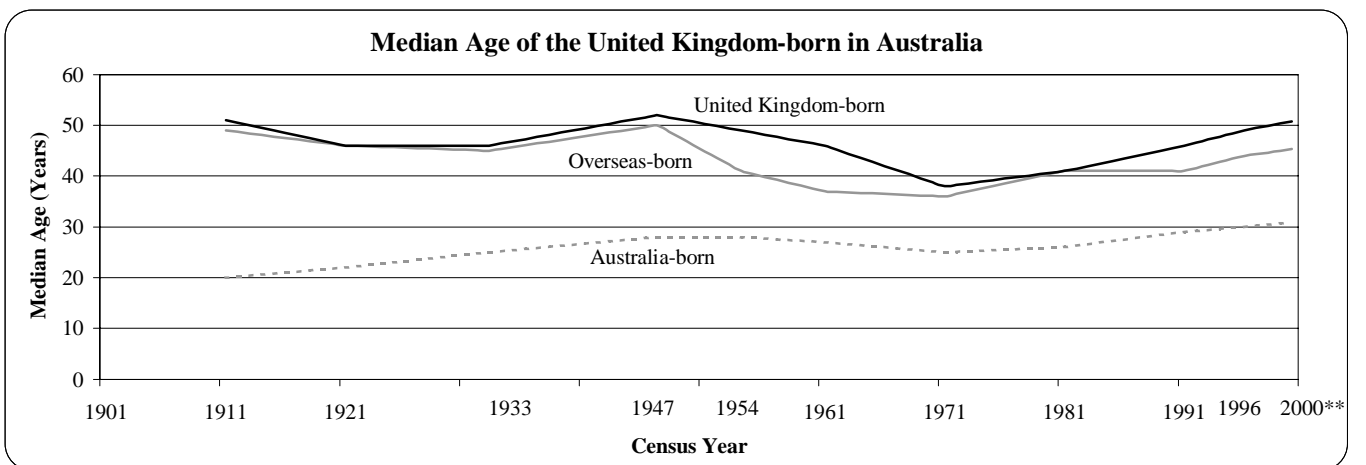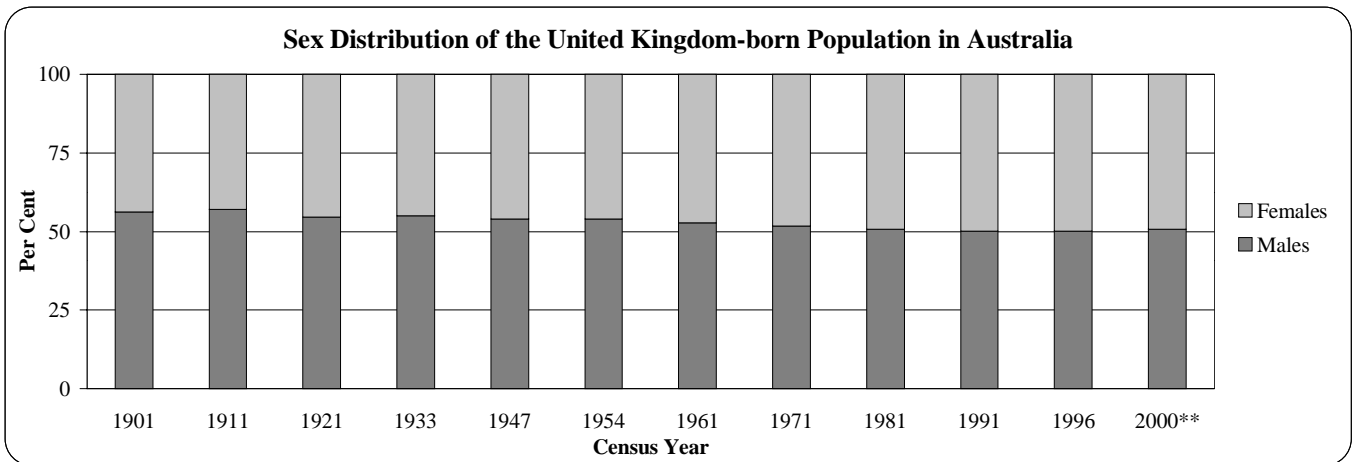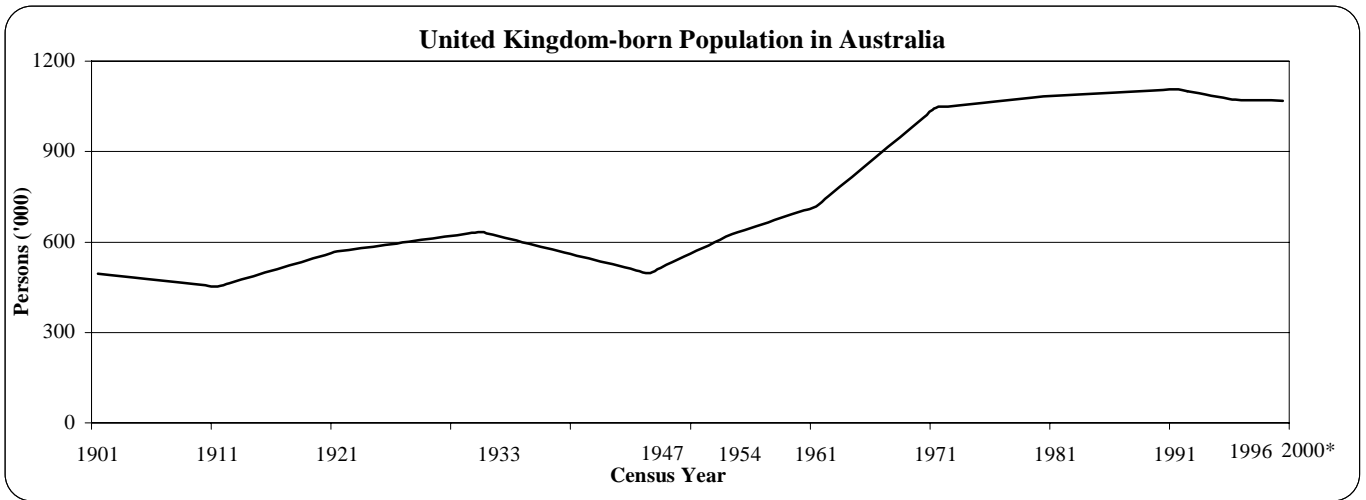
United Kingdom-born Population in Australia

Sex Distribution of the United Kingdom-born Population in Australia

Median Age of the United Kingdom-born in Australia

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 * Estimate, based on the percentage change between Estimated Resident Population (ERP) in 1996 and ERP in 2000.
** From 2000 ERP.

Italy – *A Short Immigration History*

Australia did not attract large numbers of Italy-born migrants until the 1950s. However there were individuals and small groups who played important historical roles before this time. Notable individuals were involved in the mapping of Australia in 1676, Captain Cook's Endeavour Voyage of 1770, Captain Phillip's First Fleet of 1788 and a scientific survey in 1793. Although Italian missionaries began arriving in Australia in the early days of British colonisation, up until the mid-19th century, the Italian community was few in numbers and widely dispersed.

According to the 1901 Census there were still only 5,678 Italy-born in Australia. As the *Immigration Restriction Act 1901* did not affect the Italy-born, they were able to fill labour shortages that became available as a result of the policy. This continued a slow increase in the Italy-born so that by 1911 there were 6,719 in Australia.

In 1921 there were still only 8,135 Italy-born in Australia but the pace of Italy-born immigration began to pick up in the 1920s as the community consolidated. At the 1933 Census the population had more than tripled to 26,756. One reason for this increase included the restrictive immigration policies of the United States causing emigrant flow from Italy to move in the direction of Australia. Another reason was that after World War One the Italian economy was in depression and an increasing number of people left Italy in search of work. At the same time as this large influx of Italian immigrants there was a change in their settlement pattern, with more of the Italy-born settling in the cities and large industrial areas.

Between 1928 and 1945, Italian migration to Australia was reduced to a trickle, primarily as a consequence of restrictive quotas on immigration from Southern Europe and the cessation of immigration during the war period.

Within a year of the war ending, Italian migration to Australia resumed, although at first the intake was small. Most of these new arrivals after the war were nominated by those in Australia who could guarantee work and accommodation. By the 1947 Census the Italy-born population had reached 33,632 or 4.5 per cent of the overseas-born population and had become the fourth largest overseas-born group.

The period after World War Two marks the start of a spectacular increase in the number of Italy-born in Australia. They were an integral part of Australia's post-war reconstruction and expansion program and by the late 1940s Australia sought to attract an increased number of migrants from Southern Europe including Italian migrants.

In 1951 a new assisted passage scheme was agreed between Australia and Italy. Between 1951 and 1968 this scheme brought 42,000 Italy-born migrants to Australia but it is worth noting that in the three decades following World War Two, the assisted Italy-born immigrants were outnumbered by those without assistance.

In 1954 (119,897) the Italy-born population had increased to three times the size it was in 1947 (33,632) and by 1971 reached a peak of 289,476. At the 1961 Census the Italy-born became the second largest single birthplace group next to the United Kingdom and remained so until the 1991 Census when New Zealand took its place.

In the early 1970s Italian immigration to Australia came to a halt and due to economic buoyancy in Italy at the time, there was an increase in the Italy-born returning to their home country. This, and the ageing of the Italy-born, led to a decline in the number of Italy-born in Australia. By 1981 numbers had declined to 275,883 and by 1996 further losses saw figures fall to 238,216.

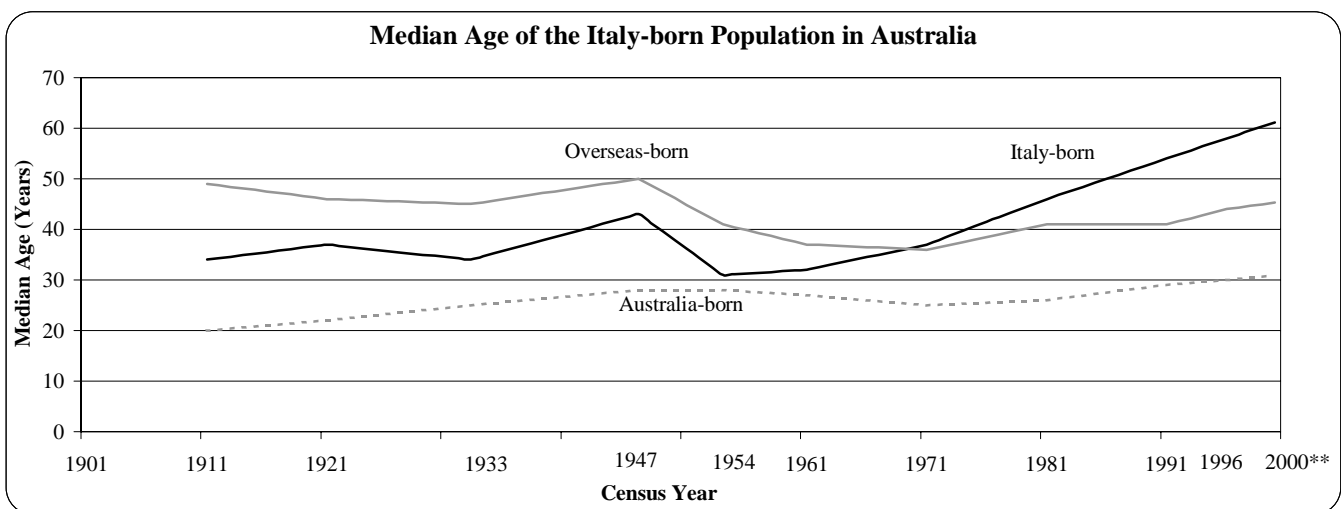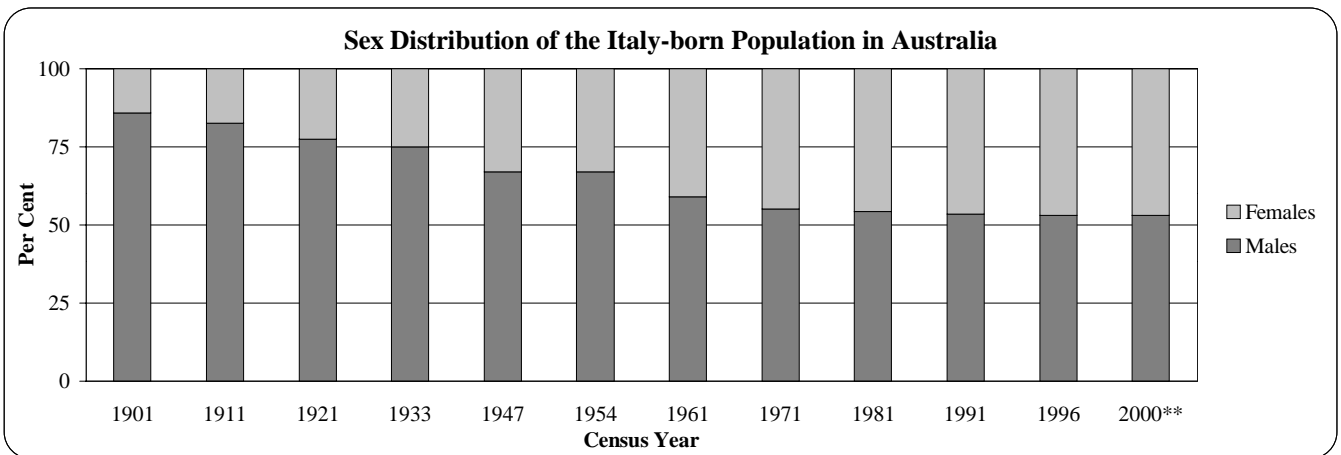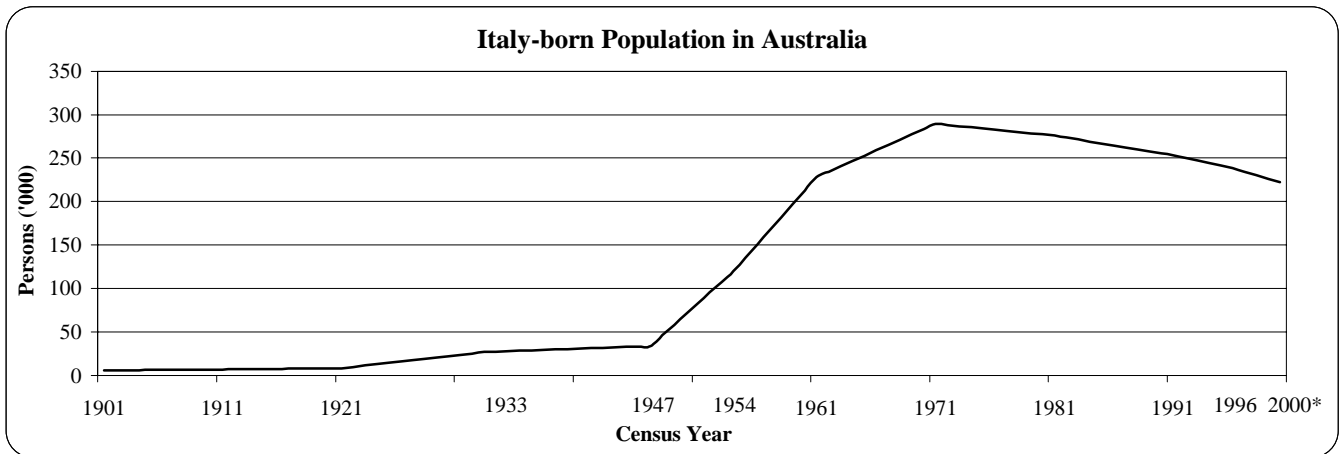**Italy –** *Key Population Statistics at Federation and Century's End*

	1901 Census	1996 Census
Population in Australia	5,678	238,216
% Overseas-born	0.7%	6.1%
% Total Australian Population	0.2%	1.3%
Rank by Size	10th	3rd
Sex Ratio[a]	604	113
Median Age (years)	34[b]	58

(a)   Males per 100 Females.
(b)   Median age at the 1911 Census. Median age at the 1901 Census is not available.

Italy – *Demographic Trends*

Italy-born Population in Australia

Sex Distribution of the Italy-born Population in Australia

Median Age of the Italy-born Population in Australia

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 * Estimate, based on the difference between Estimated Resident Population (ERP) in 1996 and ERP in 2000.
** From 2000 ERP.

New Zealand – A *Short Immigration History*

From 1828 until 1840 New Zealand was under the jurisdiction of the governor of New South Wales and for six months at the end of this period it was actually part of NSW. In 1841 it was proclaimed a separate British colony, however a close relationship between Australia and New Zealand had begun and continues until this day.

Movement between Australia and New Zealand has always been unrestricted and until 1973 no documentation was required. Since 1973, citizens of the two countries have required a passport for Tans-Tasman travel. Although neither country includes movements of citizens between the countries in their planned migration programs, Trans-Tasman movement is substantial and of considerable significance to both. The size and direction of this movement is sensitive to the relative economic conditions of the countries.

For the first two decades of the century the number of New Zealand-born in Australia rose steadily, increasing from 25,788 in 1901 to 45,963 in 1933. During the Great Depression and World War Two when there was virtually no immigration to Australia, the New Zealand-born population in Australia decreased to 43,610 in 1947.

In the 1960s a substantial increase in migration from New Zealand to Australia began. The increase occurred as a reaction to successive recessions in New Zealand. In 1961 the population had increased to 47,011. By 1971 the population had increased to 80,466 and by 1981 the population more than doubled again to 176,713.

By 1991 the number of New Zealand-born living in Australia had increased to 264,094. At this stage they represented 7.2 per cent of Australia's overseas-born population, and were for the first time the second largest birthplace group after the United Kingdom-born, displacing the Italy-born. The New Zealand-born had previously been the third largest birthplace group at the 1921 (4.6 per cent) and 1947 (5.9 per cent) Censuses.

There was some slowdown of the flow of the New Zealand-born to Australia between 1991 and 1996 but the group still increased by 10 per cent to 291,381 in 1996. The New Zealand-born remained the second largest birthplace group (7.5 per cent of the overseas-born population) in 1996.

There is a long-term trend of much greater flow from New Zealand to Australia than from Australia to New Zealand. However, in 1990–91 and during 1994–1996 poor economic conditions in Australia led to temporary increases in migration of the New Zealand-born to New Zealand.

It is apparent that a significant proportion of New Zealand migration is not intended to be permanent and that many expect to return to New Zealand after a number of years in Australia. However, data for the last decade suggests that there is an increasing trend for the New Zealand-born to become long term stayers in Australia.

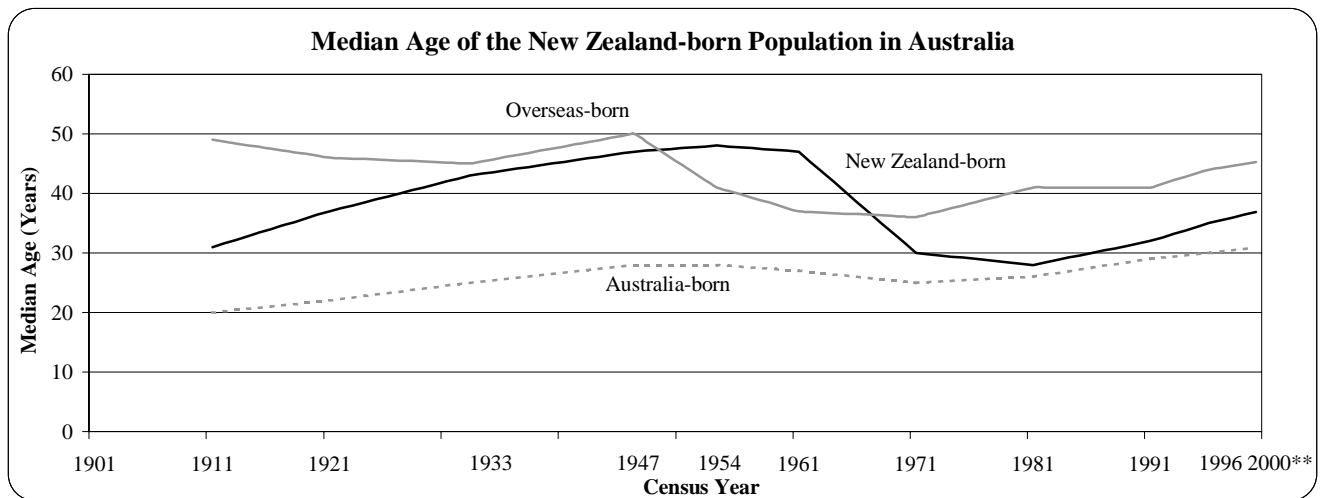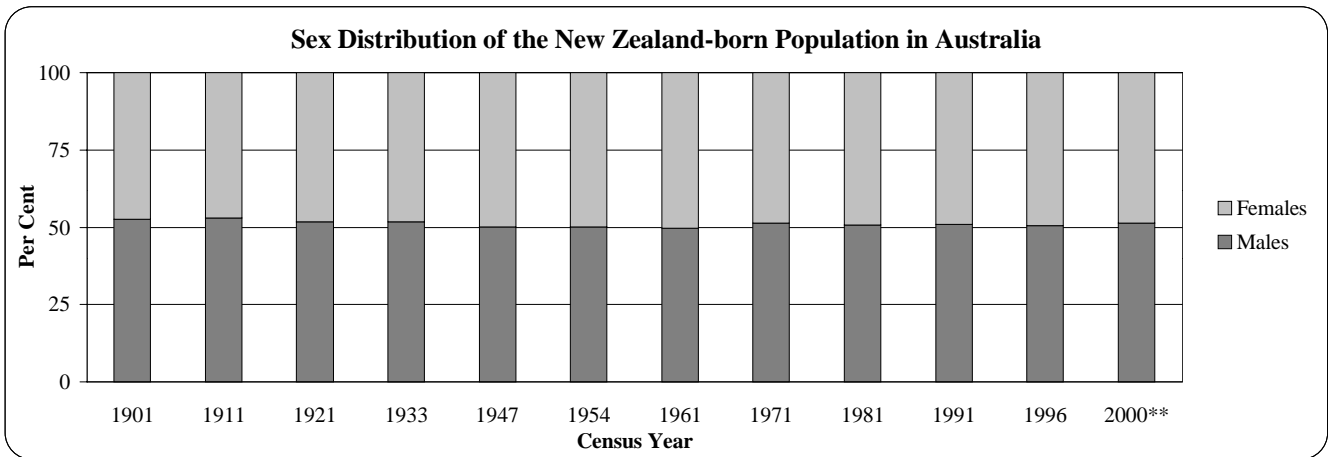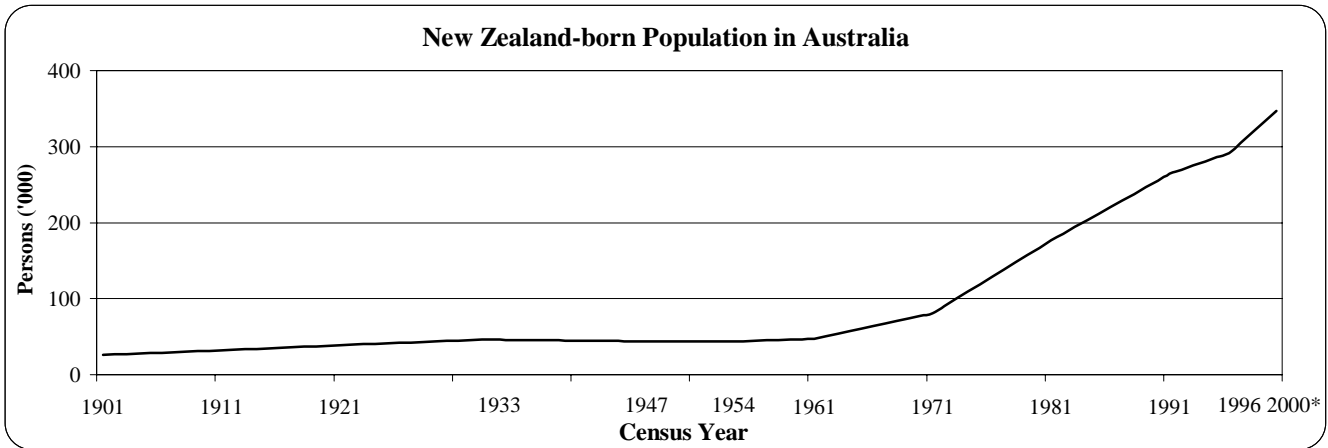**New Zealand –** *Key Population Statistics at Federation and Century's End*

	1901 Census	1996 Census
Population in Australia	25,788	291,381
% Overseas-born	3.0%	7.5%
% Total Australian Population	0.7%	1.6%
Rank by Size	5th	2nd
Sex Ratio[a]	111	103
Median Age (years)	31[b]	35

(a)   Males per 100 Females.

(b)   Median age at the 1911 Census. Median age at the 1901 Census is not available.

New Zealand – *Demographic Trends*

New Zealand-born Population in Australia

Persons ('000) — Census Year: 1901, 1911, 1921, 1933, 1947, 1954, 1961, 1971, 1981, 1991, 1996, 2000*

Sex Distribution of the New Zealand-born Population in Australia

Per Cent — Census Year: 1901, 1911, 1921, 1933, 1947, 1954, 1961, 1971, 1981, 1991, 1996, 2000**

Legend: Females, Males

Median Age of the New Zealand-born Population in Australia

Median Age (Years) — Census Year: 1901, 1911, 1921, 1933, 1947, 1954, 1961, 1971, 1981, 1991, 1996, 2000**

Overseas-born, New Zealand-born, Australia-born

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 * Estimate, based on the difference between Estimated Resident Population (ERP) in 1996 and ERP in 2000.
** From 2000 ERP.

Germany – A *Short Immigration History*

While the history of German migration to Australia began in the 19th century with the Germans being the first 'non-British' ethnic group of influence in the development of a number of Australian colonies, the main period of immigration did not begin until after World War Two.

At the beginning of the 20th century the Germany-born population of Australia was 38,352. Considerable anti-German feeling emerged during World War One and in 1914 immigration from Germany was prohibited and not resumed again until 1925. During the war the Germany-born in Australia were subject to personal, legislative and administrative prejudice including the internment of around 14 per cent of the Germany-born population of Australia. This had a devastating effect on the German community in Australia. After the defeat of Germany in 1918, 696 German citizens were deported, and 4,620 volunteered for repatriation to Germany.

The sharp decline in the Germany-born population in Australia continued until after World War Two. At the 1947 Census, before the post war resettlement process had begun in earnest, the Germany-born population had declined to 14,567, just over a third of the Germany-born population in the country in 1901.

During World War Two 1,500 captured German military personnel, 2,078 'Australian-based' German Nationals and 3,953 Germans formerly held in other British territories were interned in detention camps scattered throughout New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland and South Australia. Of all of the German nationals interned, around 60 per cent remained in Australia after their release.

Despite Australia's involvement in two world wars involving Germany, Australians perceived Germans as highly desirable immigrants and they were included in the post war resettlement program. There was tremendous growth in immigration to Australia from Germany after World War Two. The Germany-born in Australia climbed from a low of 14,567 in 1947 to 109,315 in 1961.

The 1950s saw the height of Germany-born post-war immigration. In 1952 an agreement was reached between West Germany and Australia to provide assisted passage for 3,000 Germans per annum and grant entry permits for a further 1,000 unassisted Germans. Between 1951 and 1962, 84 per cent of German emigrants received assistance.

The total number of Germany-born in Australia remained relatively stable at between 110,000–115,000 from 1961 until 1996, and hence, as other overseas-born groups have grown, they dropped from 6.1 to 2.8 per cent of the overseas-born population.

Towards the end of the century, the Germany-born in Australia are in a slow decline after peaking at 114,790 in 1986 and dropping to 110,332 in 1996. As ageing of the Germany-born population occurs it is not outweighed by net annual migration. Net annual migration of the Germany-born is low, for example in the 1999–00 financial year there were 781 settler arrivals and 259 permanent departures of the Germany-born.

Germany – *Key Population Statistics at Federation and Century's End*

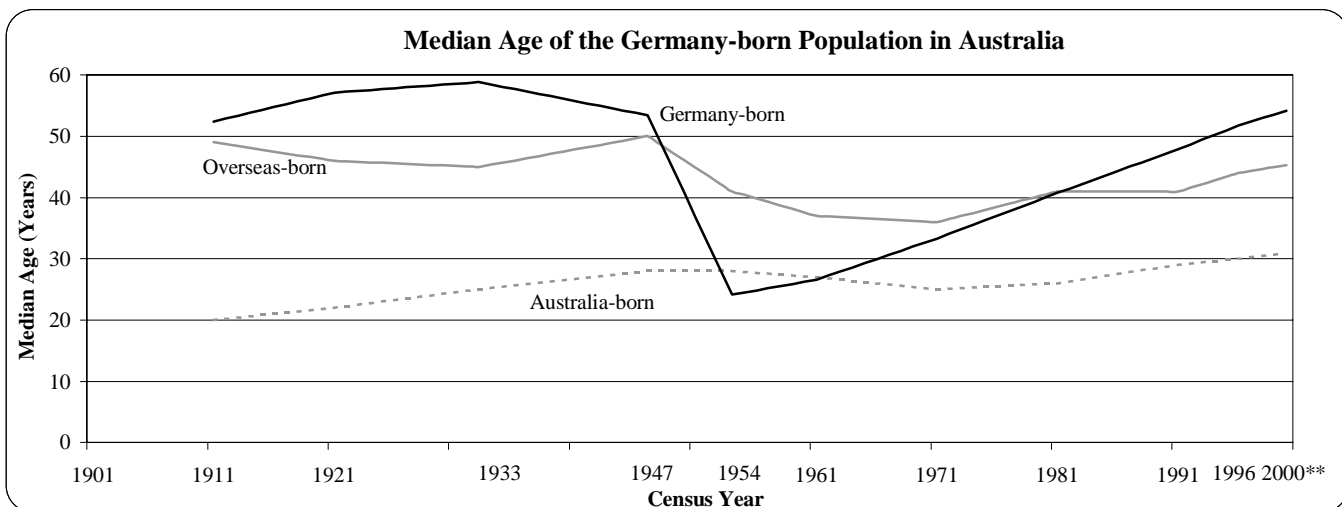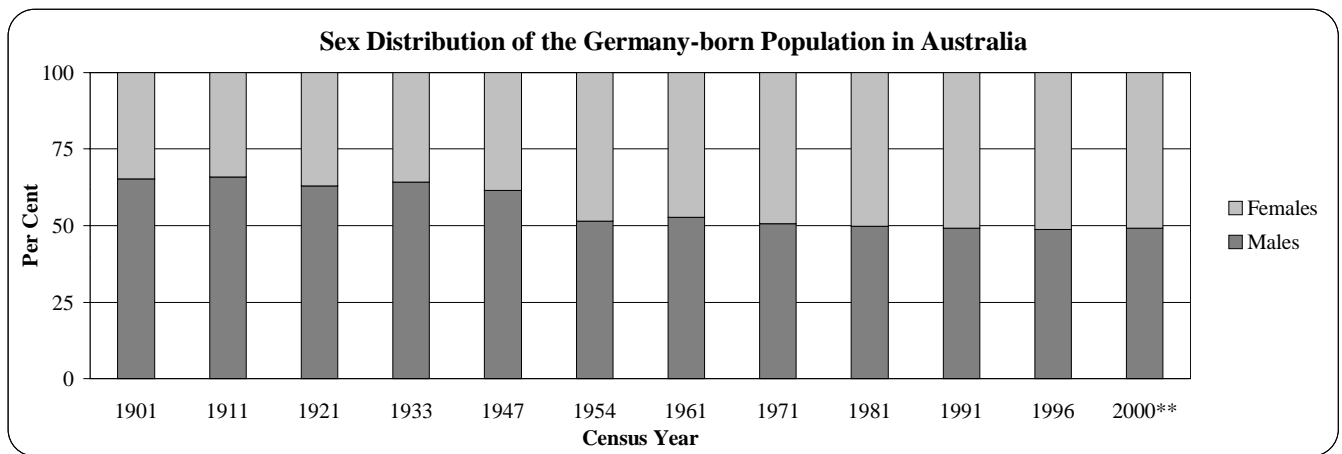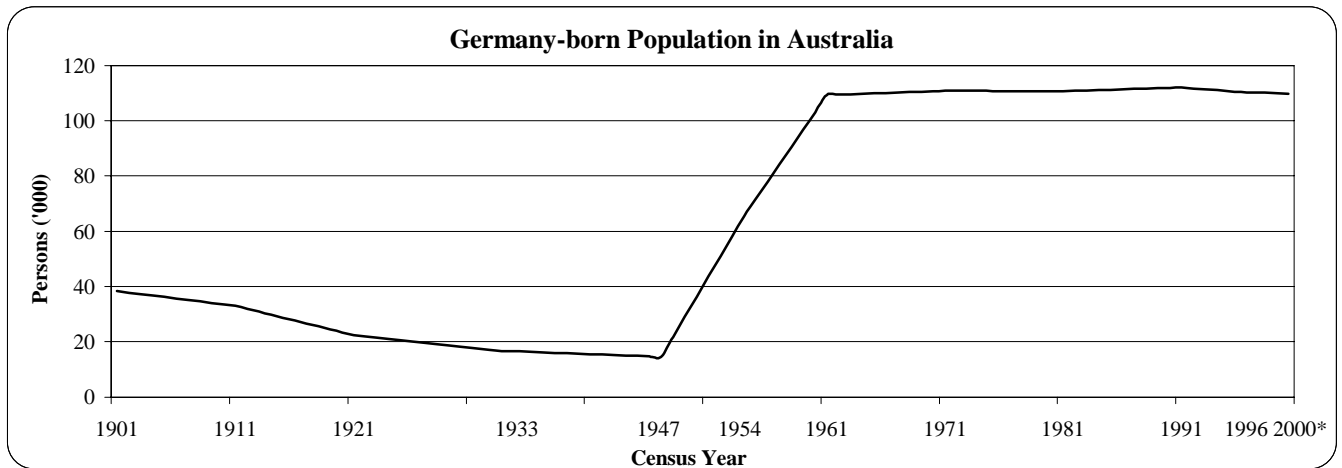|	1901 Census	1996 Census
Population in Australia	38,352	110,332
% Overseas-born	4.5%	2.8%
% Total Australian Population	1.0%	0.6%
Rank by Size	3rd	7th
Sex Ratio[a]	187	95
Median Age (years)	52[b]	52

(a)   Males per 100 Females.

(b)   Median age at the 1911 Census. Median age at the 1901 Census is not available.

Germany – *Demographic Trends*

Germany-born Population in Australia

Sex Distribution of the Germany-born Population in Australia

Median Age of the Germany-born Population in Australia

* Estimate, based on the difference between Estimated Resident Population (ERP) in 1996 and ERP in 2000.
** From 2000 ERP.

Greece – *A Short Immigration History*

At the 1901 Census there were 878 Greek-born people in Australia, mostly living in well-established communities in Sydney and Melbourne. These communities had grown from the Greek-born who lived and worked in the Victorian and New South Wales goldfields of the 1850s. The Greek-born population increased to 1,798 at the 1911 Census.

At the beginning of World War One, the majority of the Greek-born were involved in cafes, restaurants, and fruit, fish and confectioner shops as proprietors, cooks, waiters or shop assistants. In addition there were communities of cane cutters in Queensland and workers at the lead smelters in Port Pirie, South Australia.

Because of the uncertainty of allegiance of Greece and Malta during World War One, immigration from these countries was prohibited and not lifted until 1920. In 1921 there were 3,654 Greek-born in Australia, 86 per cent of whom were males.

The Greek population grew significantly between the wars, so that by the 1947 Census there were 12,291 Greek-born in Australia. Most of this increase occurred in the early 1920s and just before World War Two because between 1924 and 1936 immigration from Southern Europe was restricted by regulation. In 1924 regulation permitted a combined total of only 1,200 sponsored immigrants per year from Greece, Albania and Yugoslavia. In 1929 this number was halved and in 1930 immigration from this region was suspended. The suspension was lifted in 1936.

After World War Two with active encouragement by a Greek Government struggling with post-war reconstruction, the most dramatic change of Greek-born immigration to Australia occurred. After 1952 in particular, the numbers rose quickly after the Australian Government granted assisted passage to Greeks. Between 1952 and 1982, 75,000 Greek immigrants received assisted passage. By 1954 the number of Greek-born had already doubled and by 1961 the population had reached 77,333, more than six times the population in 1947. In the next ten years it more than doubled again to reach a peak of 160,200 in 1971.

Since 1971, there has been limited movement from Greece to Australia and some former settlers have returned to Greece. This has resulted in a steady decline in the number of the Greek-born in Australia. By 1991, it had fallen to 136,028 and by 1996 to 126,524. As the Greek-born in Australia is now an older population, many of these returns to Greece have been pensioners returning to spend their retirement in their homeland.

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* Estimate, based on the percentage change between Estimated Resident Population (ERP) in 1996 and ERP in 2000.
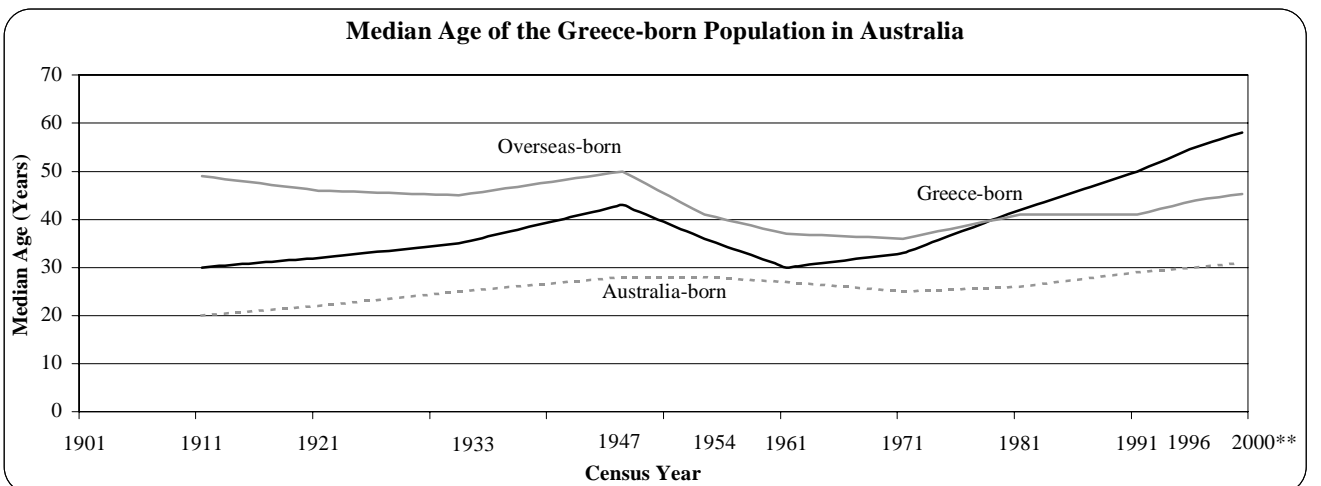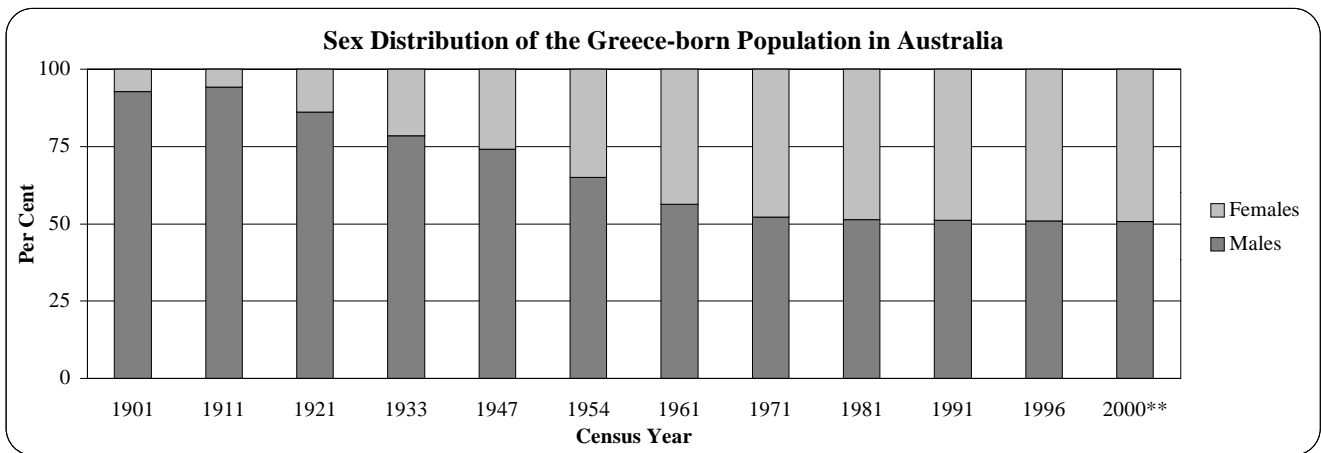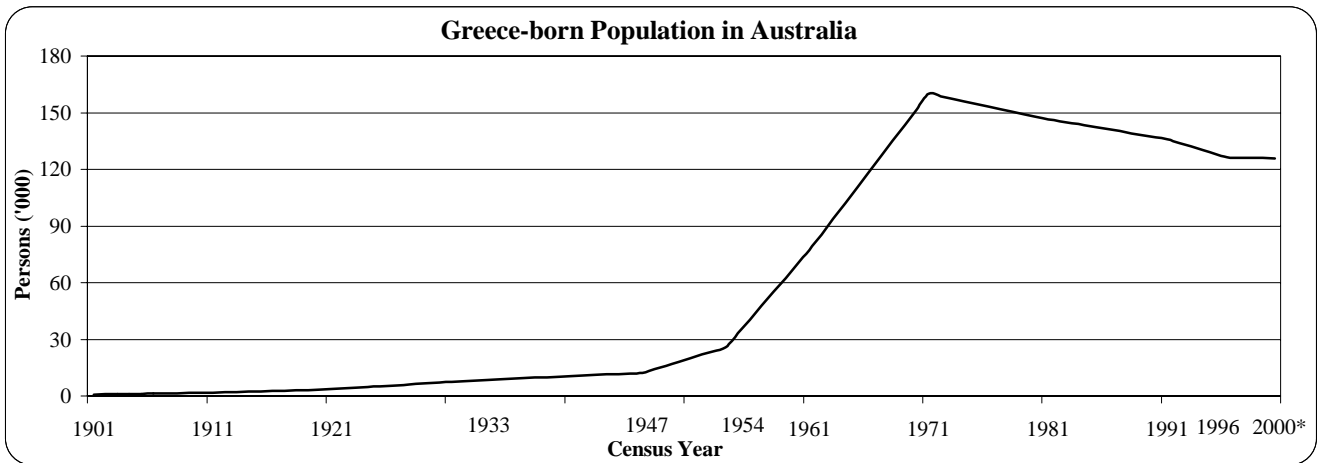** From 2000 ERP.

Greece – *Key Population Statistics at Federation and Century's End*

	1901 Census	1996 Census
Population in Australia	878	126,524
% Overseas-born	0.1%	3.2%
% Total Australian Population	0.02%	0.7%
Rank by Size	> 10th	5th
Sex Ratio[a]	1,294	104
Median Age (years)	30[b]	55

(a)   Males per 100 Females.

(b)   Median age at the 1911 Census. Median age at the 1901 Census is not available.

Greece – *Demographic Trends*

Greece-born Population in Australia

Sex Distribution of the Greece-born Population in Australia

Median Age of the Greece-born Population in Australia

* Estimate, based on the percentage change between Estimated Resident Population (ERP) in 1996 and ERP in 2000.
** From 2000 ERP.

China – *A Short Immigration History*

The first recorded presence of Chinese in Australia was of a few domestic servants and labourers that began to arrive in 1827 to satisfy labour shortages during the second quarter of the 19th century. Later, in the 1850s, the Chinese came in large numbers, attracted to the goldfields of Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland and Western Australia. By 1861, the population of the China-born in Australia had reached 38,258, which was 3.4 per cent of the total Australian population. This proportion has not been surpassed.

When the goldfields were exhausted the Chinese remained in Australia but moved to the towns and cities where many set up small businesses. Animosity towards the Chinese which had started in the goldfields, continued in the towns and cities and between 1855 and 1890 the colonies implemented more than two dozen acts to restrict the entry of Chinese.

At the 1901 Census there were 29,907 China-born in Australia of whom 99 per cent were males. This was well down on the 38,258 population of 1861. Nonetheless, because of their previous immigration history, the China-born were the third largest overseas-born group with 3.5 per cent of the overseas-born population.

The Chinese were specifically targeted by the *Immigration and Restriction Act 1901* and the decline in the China-born that had begun in the last forty years of the 19th century was accelerated in the first half of the 20th century. By 1921 the China-born population of Australia had declined to 15,224 or 1.8 per cent of the overseas-born population and by 1947 it had dropped to 6,404 or only 0.9 per cent of the overseas-born population.

In the 1950s elements of the White Australia Policy were relaxed and in 1951 the 'Colombo Plan' was introduced, which allowed Asian students to come to Australia to study. Despite these developments the number of China-born in Australia increased very slowly until the mid 1970s.

Most of the Chinese immigrants arriving in the 1970s and early 1980s were born in China but resident in other countries such as Cambodia, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Singapore and Viet Nam. The communist victories in Cambodia, Laos and Viet Nam in 1975 and the subsequent exodus of over two million asylum seekers was the push factor behind much of this migration.

The rise in immigration of the China-born that is evident after the 1976 Census can be attributed to several major developments that occurred in the 1970s. The White Australia Policy was formally abolished, the Chinese Government relaxed its control of overseas study, Australian university fees were abolished and the 'Australian–Chinese Family Reunion Agreement' was introduced allowing new Australian residents to sponsor entry of other members of their family.

In the mid-1980s the Australian Government actively began marketing educational services overseas. The huge China market was an important early focus and the number of China-born students increased markedly in the 1980s. After the repression of the pro-democracy movement in China in 1989, the Australian Government granted four-year entry permits to all Chinese students in Australia at the time. These developments were largely responsible for the China-born population in Australia more than doubling between 1986 and 1991.

By 1996 the China-born had reached 110,987 or 2.8 per cent of the overseas-born population which brought China back into the top ten countries of birth at 6th position. China had been in the top ten countries of birth up until 1947 but was not present from the late 50s to the early 80s.

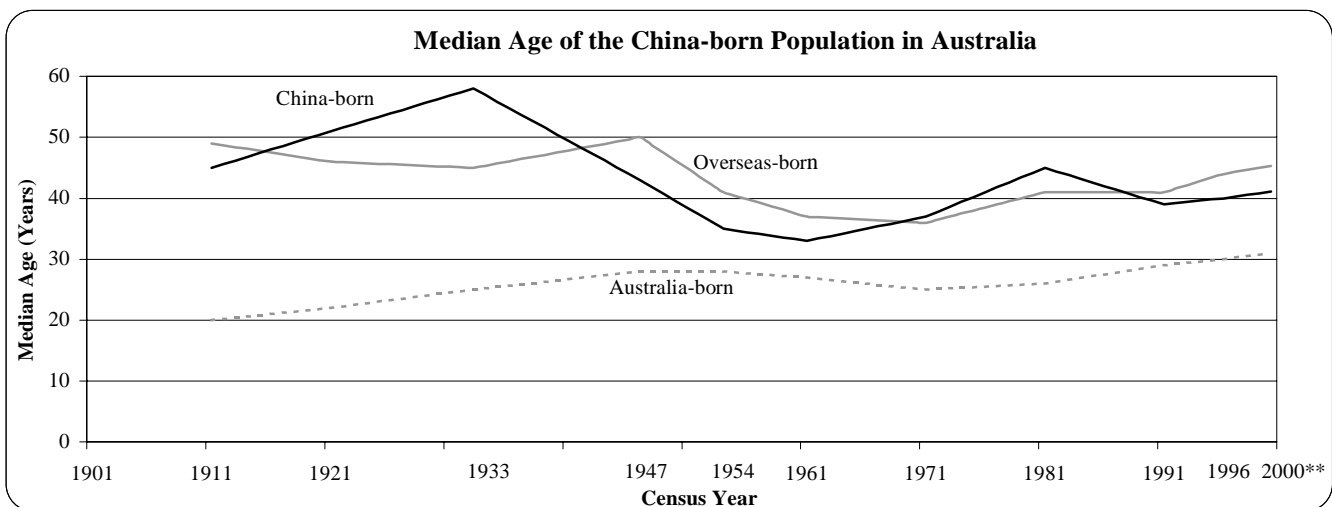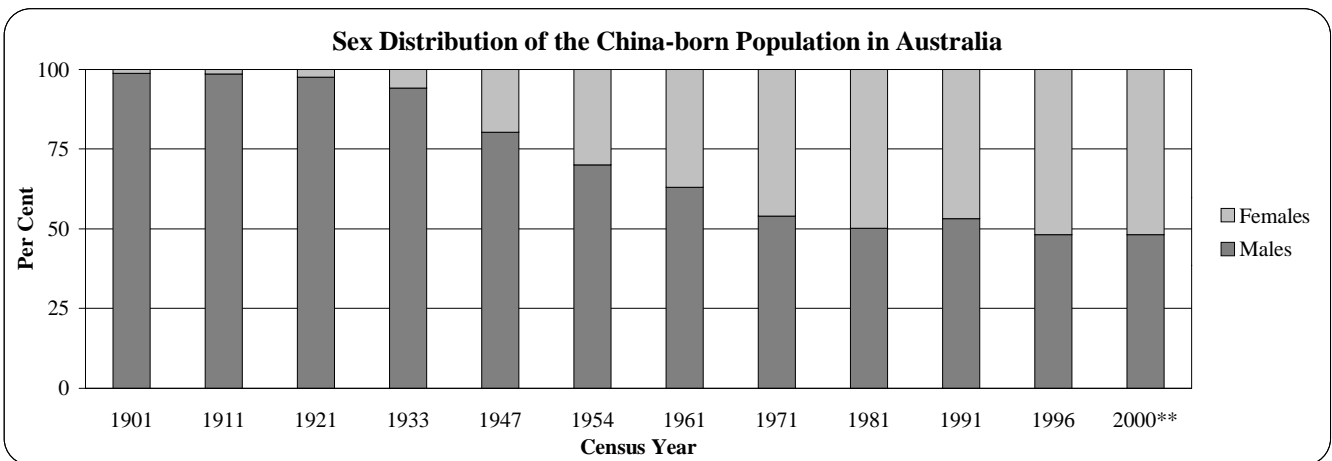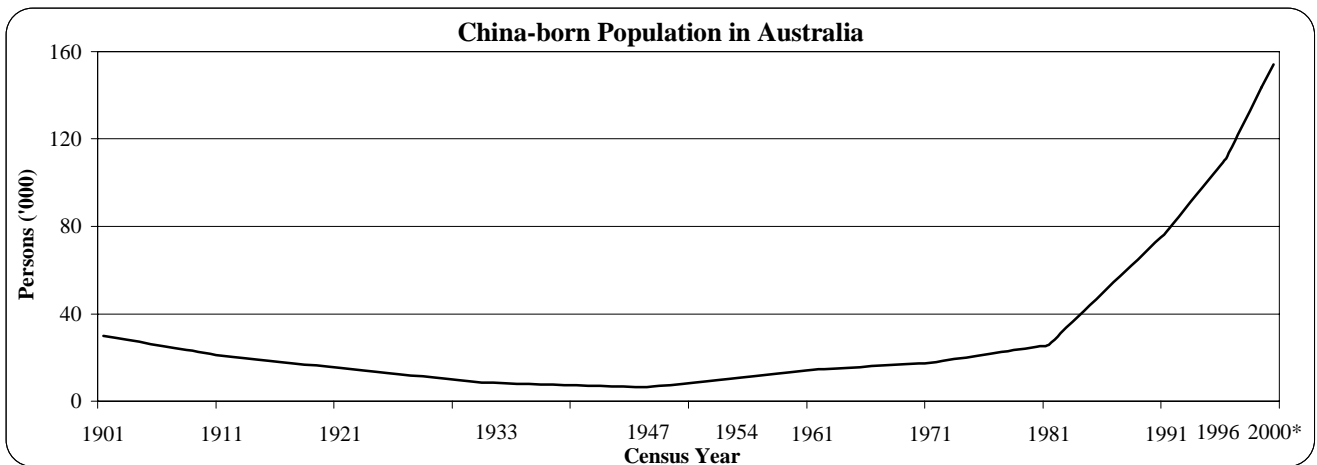**China** – *Key Population Statistics at Federation and Century's End*

	1901 Census	1996 Census
Population in Australia	29,907	110,987
% Overseas-born	3.5%	2.8%
% Total Australian Population	0.8%	0.6%
Rank by Size	4th	6th
Sex Ratio[a]	7,491	93
Median Age (years)	45[b]	40

(a)   Males per 100 Females.
(b)   Median age at the 1911 Census. Median age at the 1901 Census is not available.

China – *Demographic Trends*

China-born Population in Australia

Sex Distribution of the China-born Population in Australia

Median Age of the China-born Population in Australia

* Estimate, based on the difference between Estimated Resident Population (ERP) in 1996 and ERP in 2000.
** From 2000 ERP.

Viet Nam – *A Short Immigration History*

The Viet Nam-born population has grown rapidly from 2,427 at the 1976 Census, 41,096 at the 1981 Census, 121,813 at the 1991 Census and 151,085 at the 1996 Census, making it very quickly into the top ten countries of birth and the fourth largest overseas-born community in 1996.

The migration of Vietnamese to Australia, which has largely occurred in the last 30 years, can be characterised by three distinct phases: assisting orphans pre-1975; refugee resettlement during 1975–1985; and family reunion, in the late 80s and 1990s.

From 1958, Vietnamese students started to arrive in Australia to study at university under the Colombo Plan. However, almost all of these students returned to Viet Nam after completing their studies. In 1975 it is estimated that there were only about 1,000 Viet Nam-born living in Australia. Of these 335 were Colombo Plan students attending Australian universities, 130 were private Vietnamese students and over 500 were orphans adopted by Australian families.

Australia committed combat troops to the Viet Nam War in 1965. Later, many of these troops and other Australians in Viet Nam during the war married Vietnamese nationals and brought them back to Australia. This was the beginning of the first wave of permanent Vietnamese migration to Australia.

During the Viet Nam war over half the population were internally displaced and millions were killed. As a result, there were over 800,000 orphans in South Viet Nam alone. Australian families adopted 537 Vietnamese orphaned babies and infants between 1972 and 1975

After 1975, Australia accepted refugees who feared reprisals from the communist regime because of their economic or political activities under the previous Government and arrivals of the Viet Nam-born increased quickly. In 1976 (the first Census at which the Viet Nam-born were recorded separately) there were 2,427 Viet Nam-born people in Australia and at the 1981 Census the population had increased to 41,096.

The Viet Nam-born refugees who arrived in the immediate post-war period can be described as four main groups, with different but in some cases overlapping arrival times. The first group, arriving in 1975 were mostly elite Vietnamese, Chinese Businessmen and Catholics who faced severe reprisals from the new government. The second group arrived in 1976–78 and comprised a gradually increasing outflow of refugees from camps outside Viet Nam. The third group, arriving in 1978, was composed of owners of private businesses closed by the Viet Nam Government and other businessmen, especially Chinese, expelled by the Vietnamese Government. The fourth group were so called 'economic refugees', mostly small traders, rural and urban workers and the unemployed, who had made their way to refugee camps in Indonesia and Hong Kong and were looking for a more permanent home.

In April 1976, the first boat carrying Vietnamese asylum seekers arrived on Australia's northern shores and in the following five years, over 50 additional boats with more than 2,000 Vietnamese first asylum seekers arrived. This was part of a vast outflow of people from Viet Nam, most travelling by boat to nearby Asian countries from where they were resettled in third countries such as the USA, Canada and Australia. A small number of asylum seekers came directly to Australia. All of these asylum seekers were detained so that their eligibility as refugees could be assessed, and some were repatriated.

The urgent need to resettle the large numbers of Vietnamese refugees in camps in neighbouring countries and the increasing flow to resettlement countries such as the USA, Canada and Australia led to international discussions and agreements. Australia was party to these agreements and at the same time began to develop domestic refugee policy.

In Geneva in 1979, following negotiations between the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the Vietnamese Government agreed to forcibly constrain unregulated departures, but permit an Orderly Departure Program (ODP) in which Vietnamese were permitted to apply to migrate to specific countries.

In 1982 the Australian Government took the first immigrants from Viet Nam under the Orderly Departure Program. From the late 1980s this program was officially applied in Australia as the 'Vietnamese Family Migration Program' (VFMP). Under this program Vietnamese nationals with relatives in Australia were permitted to emigrate directly from Viet Nam to Australia, subject to satisfying Australia's standard refugee requirements.
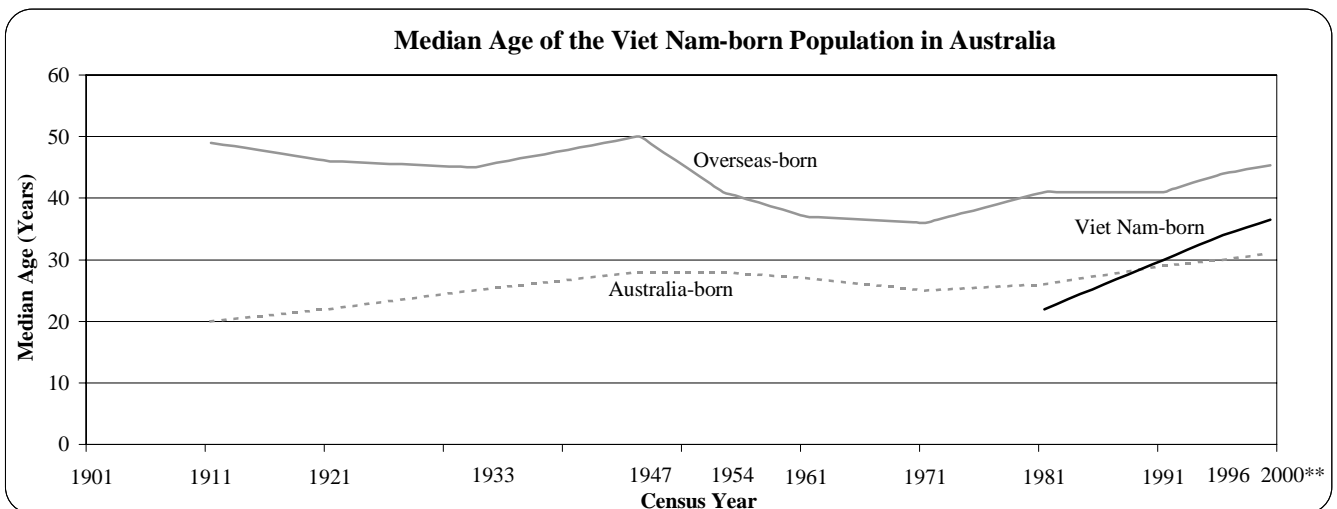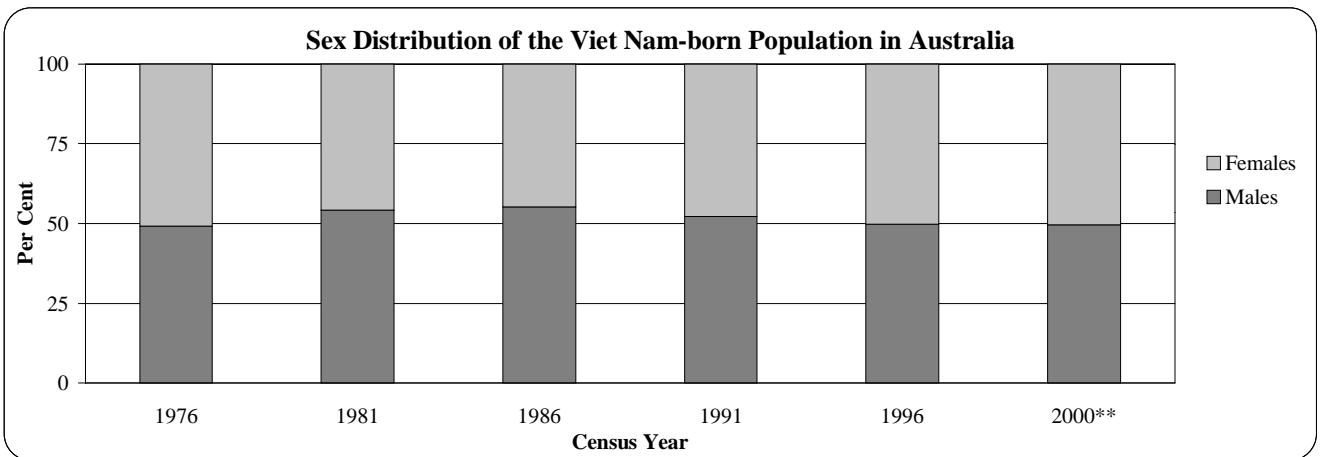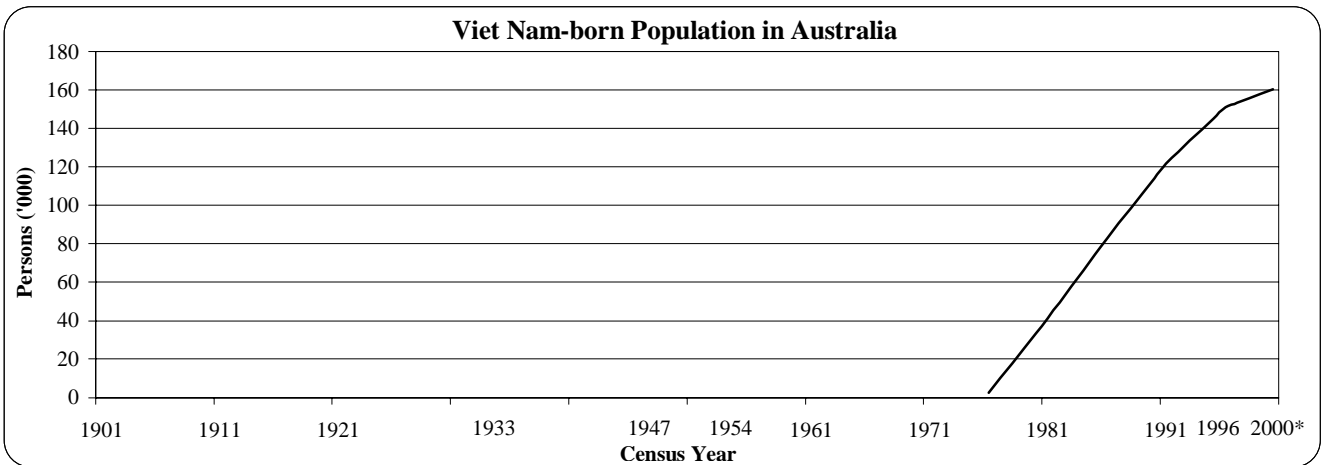
As the refugee crisis was resolved, the VFMP became dominant and the refugee component of Viet Nam-born arrivals progressively reduced. During the 1975 to 1981 period, almost all of the 49,616 Viet Nam-born entering Australia came as refugees and from 1981 to 1986 the proportion still was over 90 per cent of the 44,972 arrivals. The proportion coming as refugees decreased to around 45 per cent of the 44,984 that arrived between 1986 and 1991 and between 1991 and 1993 only 22.7 per cent of those who arrived were refugees. By the 1999–00 financial year the Viet Nam-born humanitarian arrivals were less than 2 per cent of the total Viet Nam-born settler arrivals

Viet Nam – *Key Population Statistics at Federation and Century's End*

	1901 Census	1996 Census
Population in Australia	na	151,085
% Overseas-born	na	3.9%
% Total Australian Population	na	0.9%
Rank by Size	na	4th
Sex Ratio[a]	na	99
Median Age (years)	na	34

(a)   Males per 100 Females.

Viet Nam – *Demographic Trends*

Viet Nam-born Population in Australia

Sex Distribution of the Viet Nam-born Population in Australia

Median Age of the Viet Nam-born Population in Australia

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* Estimate, based on the difference between Estimated Resident Population (ERP) in 1996 and ERP in 2000.
** From 2000 ERP.

Explanatory Notes

Sources of Data

– The Population Census

Population counts began in the earliest days of the colonies of New South Wales, Western Australia and Tasmania when regular musters were held. Before Federation each of the colonies conducted their own Censuses starting with the first official Census of New South Wales in 1828.

Since 1881 the practice of a common Census date has been adopted and by 1901 the colonies had agreed on uniform questions for a national Census. By the end of the 19th century the major colonies were producing detailed Census output.

The new Federal Government established its statistical organisation in 1906, which took over the Census function of the former colonies and it has conducted every national Census since the first in 1911. From this date the Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics began to publish nation-wide population estimates and vital migration statistics.

In the early national Census publications, because of a common Census date and common questions, the 1901 colonial statistics are presented as combined national statistics. The only Census information not readily available for the purposes of this publication was 1901 age range data needed for the calculation of median ages in Table 7.

Following on from the first British Census of 1801, the colonies adopted the system of undertaking a Census in the first year of each decade culminating in the coordinated Censuses of the colonies of 1901. This system was continued by the Bureau of Census and Statistics with the first two Censuses occurring in 1911 and 1921. The Great Depression and World War Two broke the sequence with Censuses in 1933, 1947 and 1954 and it was not until 1961 that a Census was held again in the first year of the decade. Censuses were held every 5 years from 1961 when, mostly due to immigration, the pace of change in the characteristics of the population increased.

The tables presenting Census information in this publication include every national Census up to and including 1961. After 1961 the Censuses from the first year of each decade are included. The 1966, 1976 and 1986 Censuses have been omitted because of space constraints and because data from these years would add little to the overall picture. The 1996 Census is included because it is the latest available Census.

As the last Census of the century was 1996, the 2000 Estimated Resident Population (ERP) has been used in the individual historical summaries, to illustrate trends in population, sex distribution and median age at the end of the century.

– Migration

Migration to and from Australia was recorded from the earliest days of convict transport and settlement but the country of birth of arrivals was not available nationally until October 1945. The availability of country of birth information coincides with the establishment of the *Federal Department of Immigration* and the onset of post World War Two resettlement.

In Figure 2 and Table 3, Net Overseas Migration is presented from 1901 because it has no country of birth dimension. Other tables with a country of birth dimension are only presented from October 1945. Between October 1945 and June 1959, the availability of Country of Last Residence is useful because it is a reasonable proxy for Country of Birth, which is not available for the period. At this time the Country of Last Residence of an immigrant was likely to be their Country of Birth, as there was generally less

international movement. For countries involved in World War Two however, particularly those in Europe, it is likely that long term displacement of individuals from their countries of birth may mean that Country of Last Residence does not equate well with Country of Birth. From July 1959 the country of birth of settler arrivals is available and has been presented. More information regarding the country of birth of settler arrivals is available in the footnote of Table 4.

Symbols & Abbreviations

..	=	not applicable
-	=	nil
na	=	not available
DIMA	=	Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs
ABS	=	Australian Bureau of Statistics

Further Information

The recently released, *Australian Historical Population Statistics* (ABS Catalogue No. 3105.0.65.001), is also a useful resource for investigating historical demographic statistics of Australia. These spreadsheets are available from the ABS AusStats service. AusStats contains the full range of ABS standard products in electronic form. AuStats is a subscription only service. If you are not a subscriber to AusStats you can still access the spreadsheets through the ABS National Information Service and obtain descriptions of the tables without being an AuStats subscriber at http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats.

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