

**OVERSEAS ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES, AUSTRALIA
APRIL 1991**

MAIN FEATURES

The total number of overseas movements in April 1991 was 666,000, 11 per cent less than in April 1990 (750,300). There were 306,900 arrivals (14% less than in April 1990) and 359,100 departures (9% less than in April 1990). Australian residents returning from short-term trips abroad accounted for 68 per cent of the decrease in total arrivals while Australian residents departing for short-term trips abroad accounted for 79 per cent of the decrease in total departures.

Permanent and long-term movement

In April 1991:

- 8,050 settlers arrived in Australia, 21 per cent less than in April 1990 (10,250). Settler arrivals from most areas decreased considerably with settlers from New Zealand and the United Kingdom and Ireland declining 46 and 29 per cent respectively compared with April 1990.
- Long-term visitor arrivals (3,590) were 15 per cent lower than April 1990 (4,240).
- 2,400 permanent departures were recorded, 8 per cent less than in April 1990 (2,600). This represents the first decrease in permanent departures since late 1989 when compared with previous years.
- Australian residents departing long-term (5,720) decreased 1 per cent from April 1990 (5,800).

Arrivals of overseas visitors for short-term visits

In April 1991:

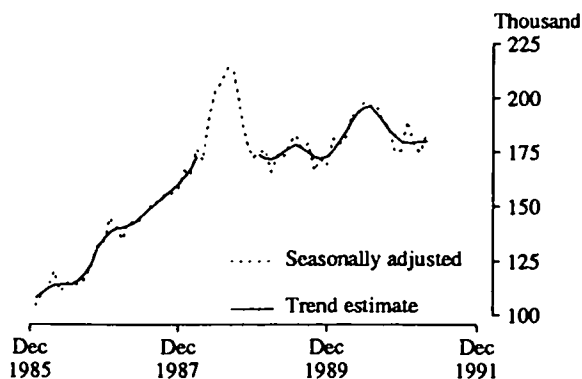
- The number of short-term overseas visitor arrivals was 168,000, 7 per cent less than in April 1990 (181,100) although in seasonally adjusted terms, short-term visitor arrivals were 5 per cent more than in March 1991. The trend estimate of visitor arrivals appears to be stabilising.
- The main purposes for visiting Australia remain 'holiday' (57%) and 'visiting relatives' (20%). The number of visitors arriving for the purposes of 'visiting relatives' decreased 17 per cent compared with April 1990 while those arriving for 'holidays' decreased 3 per cent compared with April 1990.

- Visitors intended to stay in Australia for shorter periods of time than in April 1990 with 58 per cent intending to stay for less than 2 weeks compared with 52 per cent in April 1990.
- The major source countries were: Japan with 38,000 (23% of total), New Zealand with 32,000 (19%), the U.K. and Ireland with 23,400 (14%) and the U.S.A. with 17,700 (11%). These four major source countries accounted for 66 per cent of all visitor arrivals. Visitors from Japan increased 9 per cent, while visitors from the U.K. and Ireland, the U.S.A. and New Zealand decreased 16, 13 and 10 per cent respectively compared with April 1990.

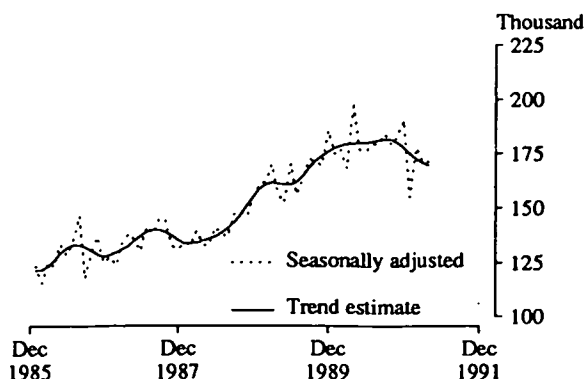
Departures of Australian residents for short-term trips abroad
In April 1991:

- 167,000 Australian residents departed for short-term visits overseas, a significant 14 per cent less than in April 1990 (193,400). This comparison is affected by the timing of Easter, which fell in March in 1991 and in April in 1990. In seasonally adjusted terms the number of departures were about the same as March 1991.
- The most popular destinations were: the U.S.A (15% of total), the U.K. and Ireland (14%), New Zealand (13%), Indonesia (7%) and Hong Kong (6%). When compared with April 1990, visitors to Hong Kong increased 5 per cent while visitors to Singapore, Fiji, Thailand, New Zealand and the U.K. and Ireland all decreased.
- There were 83,500 (50%) departures for 'holiday', 33,100 (20%) for 'visiting relatives' and 31,300 (19%) for 'business'. Australian residents travelling overseas for 'business' increased 15 per cent while residents travelling for 'holiday' decreased 23 per cent compared with April 1990. The number of Australian residents travelling overseas for the purpose of 'conventions', 'accompanying business traveller', and 'visiting relatives' all fell significantly.

SHORT-TERM VISITOR ARRIVALS (a)



SHORT-TERM RESIDENT DEPARTURES (b)



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

INQUIRIES

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

TABLE 1. TOTAL MOVEMENT — ARRIVALS: CATEGORY OF MOVEMENT

Period	Permanent arrivals Settlers	Long-term arrivals		Total permanent and long-term arrivals	Short-term arrivals (a)			Total arrivals (a)
		Australian residents	Overseas visitors		Australian residents	Overseas visitors (Seasonally adjusted)	Overseas visitors (Trend estimate b)	
Year ended 31 December —								
1988	151,550	54,990	47,330	253,860	1,637,900	2,249,300	..	4,141,100
1989	131,060	53,440	53,540	238,050	1,912,700	2,080,300	..	4,231,000
1990	121,560	56,370	56,120	234,050	2,109,300	2,214,900	..	4,558,300
1990 —								
February	9,220	3,980	10,040	23,250	155,600	192,800	178,900	371,600
March	9,610	3,630	3,840	17,080	137,500	189,100	180,900	343,700
April	10,250	3,560	4,240	18,050	158,600	181,100	192,200	357,700
May	9,060	2,930	3,240	15,230	144,800	149,900	192,100	309,900
June	10,100	4,080	3,360	17,540	149,700	157,300	198,500	324,600
July	10,390	4,790	5,650	20,830	211,600	185,400	196,500	417,800
August	11,320	4,440	3,770	19,540	182,000	178,200	196,600	379,700
September	10,390	4,420	3,530	18,340	205,800	162,700	190,300	386,900
October	9,990	4,570	3,750	18,300	230,800	190,600	186,100	439,700
November	10,650	4,960	3,040	18,650	157,200	198,600	174,800	374,400
December	10,700	9,510	3,050	23,260	123,000	253,100	176,000	399,400
1991 —								
January	9,680	6,250	8,740	24,670	260,000	177,400	189,600	462,100
February	9,690	4,430	10,250	24,370	135,100	190,600	177,700	350,100
March	10,890	4,480	4,070	19,450	141,300	189,200	174,900	350,000
April	8,050	3,270	3,590	14,900	124,000	168,000	184,300	306,900

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

TABLE 2. TOTAL MOVEMENT — DEPARTURES: CATEGORY OF MOVEMENT

Period	Permanent departures	Long-term departures		Total permanent and long-term departures	Short-term departures (a)			Total departures (a)
		Australian residents	Overseas visitors		Australian residents (Seasonally adjusted)	Australian residents (Trend estimate b)	Overseas visitors	
Year ended 31 December —								
1988	20,320	54,120	30,330	104,770	1,697,600	3,976,500
1989	24,830	59,220	35,990	120,040	1,989,800	4,130,300
1990	30,370	66,300	40,810	137,470	2,169,900	4,470,100
1990 —								
February	2,310	5,390	2,670	10,370	124,400	177,200	178,800	313,200
March	2,450	5,800	3,070	11,310	168,600	168,200	179,500	376,900
April	2,600	5,800	2,740	11,130	193,400	197,700	180,000	392,600
May	2,550	5,230	2,770	10,550	167,900	176,500	180,200	353,900
June	2,250	4,770	3,360	10,380	209,800	176,300	180,100	369,200
July	2,590	5,740	3,090	11,420	198,400	179,400	180,600	366,100
August	2,560	6,300	2,720	11,590	184,300	179,900	181,200	383,900
September	2,290	4,770	2,550	9,600	214,300	184,400	181,700	393,800
October	2,530	4,280	2,480	9,290	156,200	179,000	181,500	327,400
November	2,430	4,510	4,130	11,060	154,900	183,300	180,300	359,200
December	3,230	5,800	7,490	16,530	251,200	190,900	177,700	446,900
1991 —								
January	2,820	8,110	3,650	14,580	127,900	154,900	175,000	386,200
February	2,770	5,860	3,710	12,350	125,100	177,800	172,600	317,400
March	2,900	6,100	4,020	13,020	171,500	171,400	170,800	382,100
April	2,400	5,720	3,020	11,140	167,000	171,000	169,700	359,100

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

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

	Year ended		Quarter ended		January to		Month of	
	31 December		31 March		April		April	
	1989	1990	1990	1991	1990	1991	1990	1991
ARRIVALS								
Intended length of stay								
Under 1 week	499,800	563,100	142,600	130,500	188,700	178,400	46,000	47,900
1 and under 2 weeks	494,000	571,100	133,500	156,700	181,800	206,200	48,200	49,500
2 weeks and under 1 month	448,500	459,000	109,700	113,600	149,100	144,500	39,400	31,000
1 and under 2 months	265,600	268,000	67,900	65,300	88,400	83,800	20,500	18,500
2 and under 3 months	98,900	98,300	26,700	22,900	33,300	28,800	6,600	5,900
3 and under 6 months	110,700	104,500	28,500	25,700	35,500	31,800	7,000	6,200
6 and under 12 months	162,700	150,700	49,100	42,500	62,400	51,600	13,300	9,100
Total (a)	2,080,300	2,214,900	558,100	557,200	739,100	725,200	181,100	168,000
Purpose of journey								
In transit	78,600	70,200	20,100	17,600	25,300	22,800	5,200	5,200
Attending convention	25,400	32,500	6,500	7,400	8,800	9,500	2,200	2,100
Business	230,800	231,100	62,200	50,600	81,100	71,400	18,800	20,900
Accompanying business traveller	19,400	21,800	5,600	4,800	7,400	6,500	1,800	1,700
Visiting relatives	459,900	456,000	106,200	104,100	146,900	138,000	40,700	33,900
Holiday	1,107,000	1,233,700	303,800	324,800	401,400	419,800	97,600	95,000
Employment	30,000	29,600	8,600	5,900	10,800	8,600	2,200	2,600
Education	62,800	64,600	27,600	24,400	34,100	28,600	6,500	4,200
Other and not stated	66,400	75,300	17,500	17,500	23,500	19,900	6,000	2,300
Total	2,080,300	2,214,900	558,100	557,200	739,100	725,200	181,100	168,000
DEPARTURES								
Intended length of stay								
Under 1 week	175,900	189,600	42,200	40,700	60,200	59,300	18,000	18,700
1 and under 2 weeks	487,800	523,600	119,500	118,600	169,700	160,000	50,200	41,400
2 weeks and under 1 month	565,200	604,800	132,900	120,900	184,600	163,000	51,700	42,100
1 and under 2 months	353,300	389,200	61,700	61,300	90,200	85,700	28,500	24,400
2 and under 3 months	158,500	181,500	24,100	22,900	39,000	35,200	14,900	12,300
3 and under 6 months	139,800	157,500	23,900	23,400	40,700	37,600	16,800	14,200
6 and under 12 months	108,100	123,600	35,400	36,800	48,700	50,700	13,400	13,900
Total (a)	1,989,800	2,169,900	439,700	424,500	633,100	591,500	193,400	167,000
Purpose of journey								
Attending convention	47,700	55,300	10,400	7,000	16,400	10,400	6,000	3,400
Business	302,200	306,900	72,400	65,600	99,600	96,900	27,200	31,300
Accompanying business traveller	33,000	31,600	7,200	6,600	10,400	8,700	3,200	2,100
Visiting relatives	387,600	439,200	78,500	88,800	115,800	121,900	37,300	33,100
Holiday	1,085,500	1,193,900	235,600	223,000	343,400	306,500	107,800	83,500
Employment	35,700	41,500	10,700	12,500	13,500	17,300	2,800	4,800
Education	19,400	24,100	5,800	5,600	7,600	7,200	1,800	1,600
Other and not stated	78,700	77,300	19,000	15,400	26,400	22,600	7,400	7,200
Total	1,989,800	2,169,900	439,700	424,500	633,100	591,500	193,400	167,000

(a) Includes not stated.

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

Country of birth (Summary)	Year ended		Quarter ended		January to		Month of	
	31 December		31 March		April		April	
	1989	1990	1990	1991	1990	1991	1990	1991
OCEANIA AND ANTARCTICA —								
New Zealand	17,340	8,970	2,820	2,010	3,660	2,460	840	450
Other	4,040	3,810	1,120	970	1,470	1,290	350	330
Total	21,390	12,780	3,940	2,980	5,130	3,750	1,190	780
EUROPE AND THE USSR —								
United Kingdom and Ireland	26,490	23,520	5,920	5,340	8,180	6,950	2,270	1,610
Other	13,140	11,300	2,810	2,430	3,820	3,110	1,010	680
Total	39,630	34,820	8,730	7,770	12,000	10,060	3,270	2,290
<i>Middle East and North Africa</i>	6,580	6,390	1,310	1,700	1,650	2,140	340	440
<i>Southeast Asia</i>	29,690	30,520	6,740	6,470	9,210	8,350	2,480	1,880
<i>Northeast Asia</i>	16,290	18,860	3,840	6,330	5,450	7,550	1,610	1,220
<i>Southern Asia</i>	5,780	7,760	1,470	2,440	2,030	3,130	560	690
<i>The Americas</i>	7,460	6,600	1,570	1,480	2,110	1,970	540	490
<i>Africa (excluding North Africa)</i>	4,190	3,800	1,120	1,100	1,380	1,360	250	260
Total (b)	131,060	121,560	28,720	30,270	38,970	38,310	10,250	8,050

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

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

Country of residence	Year ended		Quarter ended		January to		Month of	
	31 December	31 December	31 March	31 March	April	April	1990	1991
	1989	1990	1990	1991	1990	1991	1990	1991
OCEANIA & ANTARCTICA —								
Fiji	17,500	16,000	4,100	4,100	5,500	5,400	1,400	1,200
New Caledonia	13,400	14,400	5,500	5,900	6,700	6,700	1,200	700
New Zealand	449,300	418,400	75,600	90,100	111,000	122,100	35,400	32,000
Papua New Guinea	34,800	34,600	8,400	8,500	11,600	11,100	3,200	2,600
Other	18,400	17,200	4,500	4,600	5,700	5,700	1,200	1,100
Total	533,500	500,700	98,100	113,300	140,500	151,000	42,400	37,700
EUROPE & THE USSR —								
Austria	9,200	9,600	2,500	2,500	3,100	3,200	600	700
Belgium	3,700	4,200	1,300	900	1,500	1,100	200	200
Denmark	10,200	9,900	3,100	2,600	3,800	3,100	700	600
Finland	5,200	5,800	1,500	1,600	1,800	1,900	300	300
France	20,100	21,100	5,200	4,700	6,300	6,000	1,100	1,300
Germany, Fed Rep	68,100	74,200	21,200	21,200	27,100	27,000	5,900	5,900
Greece	7,400	7,500	1,900	1,300	2,200	1,600	300	300
Ireland, Republic of	12,200	10,600	3,200	2,400	4,000	3,000	800	600
Italy	20,500	24,400	4,900	4,200	6,000	5,400	1,000	1,200
Netherlands	20,100	21,100	5,800	5,400	6,900	6,600	1,100	1,200
Norway	3,700	4,400	1,200	1,100	1,500	1,400	300	300
Sweden	24,100	22,000	7,600	5,700	8,800	6,600	1,200	1,000
Switzerland	27,400	29,500	8,500	8,800	10,400	10,600	1,800	1,800
United Kingdom	272,900	277,700	81,200	79,400	108,300	102,100	27,100	22,800
USSR & Baltic States	5,400	5,300	1,500	1,300	1,800	1,600	300	300
Yugoslavia	6,400	5,800	1,600	1,200	1,900	1,500	300	300
Other	15,300	16,500	3,900	3,500	5,000	4,100	1,100	600
Total	531,700	549,500	156,100	147,700	200,400	187,100	44,300	39,400
MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA —								
Israel	5,400	5,300	1,500	1,200	1,900	1,500	400	300
Other	11,600	12,100	2,800	1,800	3,700	2,500	900	700
Total	17,000	17,400	4,300	3,000	5,600	4,000	1,300	1,000
SOUTHEAST ASIA —								
Indonesia	29,000	34,400	7,600	7,800	10,800	11,600	3,200	3,800
Malaysia	44,300	46,600	12,700	12,300	17,300	16,700	4,600	4,300
Philippines	11,000	13,600	3,100	3,800	4,700	5,500	1,600	1,700
Singapore	65,200	75,900	15,300	16,700	20,900	23,200	5,600	6,500
Thailand	17,300	19,600	4,800	4,800	7,500	8,100	2,700	3,200
Other	3,900	5,000	1,300	1,500	1,900	1,900	500	400
Total	170,600	195,000	44,800	47,100	63,000	67,000	18,200	20,000
NORTHEAST ASIA —								
China	29,100	23,700	8,400	3,900	12,100	5,000	3,700	1,100
Hong Kong	54,100	54,500	17,300	19,800	22,000	23,100	4,800	3,300
Japan	349,500	479,900	119,700	119,600	154,600	157,700	35,000	38,000
Korea	10,400	14,100	3,200	4,600	4,300	6,300	1,100	1,700
Taiwan	21,500	25,300	11,000	8,300	13,200	9,900	2,300	1,600
Other	500	500	100	200	100	200	—	—
Total	465,200	597,900	159,600	156,400	206,500	202,100	46,900	45,800
SOUTHERN ASIA —								
India	10,900	11,000	2,800	2,000	3,900	2,900	1,100	800
Sri Lanka	4,000	3,900	1,100	900	1,500	1,200	400	300
Other	3,300	3,000	800	400	1,000	600	200	200
Total	18,200	17,800	4,700	3,300	6,300	4,700	1,700	1,400
THE AMERICAS —								
Brazil	2,500	2,900	800	800	900	900	200	100
Canada	54,200	53,700	15,400	15,100	19,000	18,100	3,600	3,000
United States of America (b)	261,700	251,600	67,600	63,200	88,100	81,000	20,400	17,700
Other	8,200	8,800	2,300	2,200	2,900	2,600	600	400
Total	326,600	317,000	86,100	81,300	110,900	102,600	24,800	21,300
AFRICA (excluding North Africa) —								
South Africa	8,000	9,100	2,300	2,300	3,100	3,000	800	700
Zimbabwe	3,600	3,600	1,000	900	1,300	1,100	300	300
Other	3,900	4,200	1,100	1,400	1,500	1,800	400	400
Total	15,500	16,900	4,300	4,500	5,800	5,900	1,500	1,400
Total (c)	2,080,300	2,214,900	558,100	557,200	739,100	725,200	181,100	168,000

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

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

Country of intended stay	Year ended		Quarter ended		January to		Month of	
	31 December		31 March		April		April	
	1989	1990	1990	1991	1990	1991	1990	1991
OCEANIA & ANTARCTICA —								
Fiji	93,900	102,000	18,900	21,300	27,500	27,300	8,600	6,000
New Caledonia	14,500	14,900	2,800	3,400	4,100	4,400	1,300	1,000
New Zealand	297,300	320,200	80,900	81,100	108,900	102,800	28,000	21,800
Norfolk Island	12,200	14,200	2,900	3,700	4,200	5,400	1,300	1,700
Papua New Guinea	34,400	34,000	7,300	9,000	10,400	12,300	3,100	3,400
Vanuatu	12,800	17,200	3,800	4,100	4,700	5,400	900	1,400
Other	27,300	27,400	6,300	4,900	8,300	7,200	2,100	2,300
Total	492,400	529,900	122,800	127,500	168,100	164,900	45,400	37,400
EUROPE & THE USSR —								
Austria	6,400	7,600	1,400	1,400	2,000	2,100	600	600
France	20,500	24,100	3,700	3,900	5,900	6,000	2,200	2,100
Germany, Fed Rep	30,800	34,500	5,900	5,800	9,100	9,100	3,200	3,300
Greece	31,700	32,900	4,400	3,300	8,100	5,900	3,700	2,600
Ireland, Republic of	10,100	11,900	1,200	1,800	2,000	2,500	800	700
Italy	41,600	45,000	5,000	4,900	10,100	8,000	5,100	3,100
Netherlands	13,300	15,900	2,500	1,800	4,200	3,300	1,800	1,500
Poland	5,400	6,300	500	400	1,200	1,000	700	600
Spain	5,600	6,300	1,300	1,000	1,800	1,400	500	400
Sweden	4,200	4,900	500	700	900	1,200	400	500
Switzerland	9,000	9,500	1,800	1,900	3,300	2,800	1,400	900
United Kingdom	237,500	252,800	41,400	39,000	69,200	61,600	27,800	22,700
Yugoslavia	15,200	17,500	1,800	1,500	3,300	2,500	1,600	1,000
Other	32,400	40,100	5,000	4,900	7,900	7,200	3,000	2,300
Total	463,600	509,200	76,200	72,400	128,900	114,700	52,700	42,300
MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA —								
Egypt	6,300	4,800	1,400	400	1,900	800	500	400
Israel	6,200	4,800	1,200	700	1,900	1,200	600	500
Lebanon	5,000	7,700	1,400	600	1,900	1,500	600	900
Turkey	6,900	8,400	1,200	500	2,600	800	1,500	300
Other	7,100	6,300	1,500	700	2,100	1,300	600	600
Total	31,400	32,100	6,600	2,900	10,400	5,600	3,800	2,700
SOUTHEAST ASIA —								
Indonesia	146,100	158,000	31,800	34,300	44,300	46,500	12,600	12,300
Malaysia	62,300	75,100	16,500	14,400	22,100	19,100	5,600	4,700
Philippines	41,900	40,500	9,800	9,000	13,700	12,900	3,900	3,900
Singapore	117,800	105,500	25,900	22,100	36,100	29,100	10,100	7,000
Thailand	86,600	99,100	24,700	15,300	32,700	20,900	8,000	5,600
Other	7,100	9,000	1,800	3,500	2,500	4,300	600	800
Total	461,600	487,200	110,500	98,500	151,300	132,800	40,800	34,300
NORTHEAST ASIA —								
China	13,900	12,800	2,300	2,400	3,300	3,900	1,000	1,500
Hong Kong	116,800	120,500	28,900	29,900	38,800	40,300	10,000	10,400
Japan	40,600	47,900	9,300	9,500	13,500	13,200	4,300	3,700
Korea	7,800	8,000	1,300	1,400	2,300	2,100	1,000	600
Taiwan	10,600	13,600	2,800	3,200	4,000	4,500	1,200	1,300
Other	300	400	100	—	100	100	—	—
Total	190,000	203,200	44,600	46,400	62,100	64,000	17,400	17,600
SOUTHERN ASIA —								
India	23,200	22,100	5,500	4,400	7,400	5,700	1,800	1,400
Sri Lanka	3,500	7,200	800	1,400	1,200	1,900	400	500
Other	7,900	8,000	1,900	1,500	2,500	2,000	700	500
Total	34,600	37,300	8,200	7,300	11,000	9,700	2,900	2,300
THE AMERICAS —								
Canada	30,100	32,500	4,800	4,400	6,800	6,200	2,100	1,800
United States of America (b)	247,200	300,200	58,600	57,000	83,800	82,800	25,200	25,800
Other	15,800	15,400	3,400	3,600	4,400	4,700	1,100	1,100
Total	293,100	348,100	66,700	65,000	95,100	93,700	28,400	28,700
AFRICA (excluding North Africa) —								
South Africa	11,600	10,400	2,300	2,000	3,500	2,600	1,200	600
Other	9,200	9,300	1,300	1,800	1,900	2,800	600	1,000
Total	20,900	19,600	3,700	3,800	5,400	5,300	1,800	1,500
Total (c)	1,989,800	2,169,900	439,700	424,500	633,100	591,500	193,400	167,000

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

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

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

Scope

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

Definitions

Category of movement

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

Permanent movement

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

Long-term movement

5. Long-term arrivals comprise overseas visitors (except those who hold migrant visas—see paragraph 4 above) who intend to stay in Australia for 12 months or more and Australian residents returning after an absence of 12 months or more overseas. Long-term departures comprise Australian residents who intend to stay abroad for 12 months or more and overseas visitors departing who stayed 12 months or more in Australia.

Short-term movement

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

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

Country of birth or residence

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

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

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

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

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

Estimation method

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

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

Corrections and imputations

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

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

Seasonal adjustment

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Related publications

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

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

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

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

Unpublished statistics

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

Symbols and other usages

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

W. McLENNAN
Acting Australian Statistician



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