

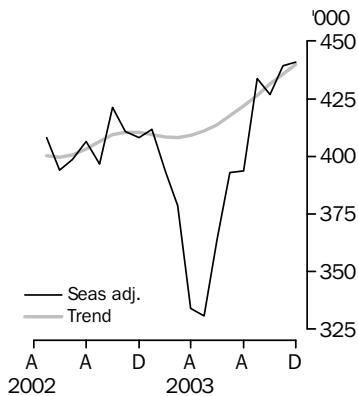
# OVERSEAS ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

AUSTRALIA

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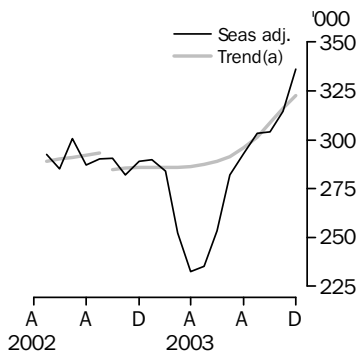
## Visitor arrivals

Short-term



## Resident departures

Short-term



(a) Break in trend series from October 2002.

## KEY FIGURES

	Dec 03	Nov 03 to Dec 03	Dec 02 to Dec 03
	'000	% change	% change
<b>Short-term visitor arrivals</b>			
Trend	440.0	1.0	..
Seasonally adjusted	440.8	0.3	..
Original	566.6	..	6.1
<b>Short-term resident departures</b>			
Trend	322.8	2.2	..
Seasonally adjusted	336.3	6.9	..
Original	420.2	..	15.1

## KEY POINTS

### TREND ESTIMATES

- Trend estimates in this issue take into account the impact of recent world events. See paragraphs 21 and 22 of the Explanatory Notes for more detail.
- Short-term visitor arrivals continue to increase steadily with the trend estimate for December 2003 (440,000 movements) representing an increase of 1.0% compared to November 2003 and followed an increase of 1.1% for October and 1.0% for November.
- Short-term resident departures also continue to increase steadily. The trend estimate for December 2003 (322,800 movements) represents an increase of 2.2% from the previous month and followed an increase of 2.3% for October and 2.4% November.

### SEASONALLY ADJUSTED ESTIMATES

- The seasonally adjusted estimate of short-term visitor arrivals for December 2003 (440,800 movements) increased by 0.3% compared to the previous month and followed an decrease of 1.6% for October and an increase of 2.9% for November.
- Short-term departures of Australian residents for December 2003 (336,300 movements) increased by 6.9% compared to November 2003 and followed an increase of 0.2% for October and 3.5% for November.

### ORIGINAL ESTIMATES

- In original terms there were 566,600 short-term visitors to Australia in December 2003, an increase of 6.1% compared to December 2002 (534,000 movements).
- There were 420,200 short-term departures of Australian residents, an increase of 15.1% compared to December 2002 (365,100 movements).

## INQUIRIES

- For further information about these and related statistics, contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070 or Chrissy Beruldsen on Canberra (02) 6252 5640.

# NOTES

## FORTHCOMING ISSUES

ISSUE	RELEASE DATE
January 2004	16 March 2004
February 2004	13 April 2004
March 2004	12 May 2004
April 2004	11 June 2004
May 2004	13 July 2004
June 2004	13 August 2004



## EARLY ESTIMATES

Early estimates of short-term visitor arrivals for January 2004 will be available on the ABS website <<http://www.abs.gov.au>> on 16 February 2004. These estimates can be accessed by going to the home page and selecting Main Features (located under Statistical Products and Services) and then 34. Migration. Select *Short-term Visitor Arrival Estimates, Australia* (cat. no. 3401.0.55.001).

## DATA NOTES

For data quality issues see appendix 2 (page 22).

This publication contains movement data. Care should be taken when interpreting this movement data as 'people'. See paragraph 5 of the Explanatory Notes for more detail.

Calculations of percentage and numeric change as shown in the Key Points and/or Main Features of this publication are based on unrounded data. See paragraph 11 of Explanatory Notes for more detail.



## ABBREVIATIONS

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ASCCSS	Australian Standard Classification of Countries for Social Statistics
DIMIA	Australian Government Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs
OAD	Overseas Arrivals and Departures Collection
SAR	Special Administrative Region
TRIPS	Travel and Immigration Processing System

Dennis Trewin  
Australian Statistician

## MAIN FEATURES

### SHORT-TERM VISITOR ARRIVALS

According to seasonally adjusted estimates, the number of short-term visitor arrivals has increased from a low 330,800 in May 2003 to 440,800 in December 2003. The top ten source countries for short-term visitor arrivals for December 2003 and the percentage and numeric change compared to December 2002 are presented in the table below.

#### SHORT-TERM VISITOR ARRIVALS, Major Source Countries—December 2003

	<i>December 2003</i>	<i>December 2002</i>	<i>Numeric change</i>	<i>Percentage change</i>
	'000	'000	'000	%
United Kingdom	106.2	103.3	2.9	2.8
New Zealand	82.5	68.1	14.4	21.1
Japan	73.0	70.0	2.9	4.2
United States of America	42.6	41.1	1.5	3.6
Singapore	36.4	37.9	-1.5	-4.0
China	22.0	18.2	3.9	21.3
Korea	18.2	18.9	-0.6	-3.4
Malaysia	18.0	18.4	-0.3	-1.9
Germany	15.6	13.0	2.6	19.6
Hong Kong (SAR of China)	13.3	15.2	-1.9	-12.4

### SHORT-TERM RESIDENT DEPARTURES

In seasonally adjusted terms, the number of short-term resident departures increased from 232,400 in April 2003 to 336,300 in December 2003. The top ten destinations of short-term resident departures for December 2003 and the percentage and numeric change compared to December 2002 are presented in the table below.

#### SHORT-TERM RESIDENT DEPARTURES, Major Destinations—December 2003

	<i>December 2003</i>	<i>December 2002</i>	<i>Numeric change</i>	<i>Percentage change</i>
	'000	'000	'000	%
New Zealand	96.5	79.1	17.3	21.9
United States of America	33.7	30.2	3.5	11.7
United Kingdom	29.8	27.6	2.1	7.8
Indonesia	24.8	11.7	13.1	112.1
Hong Kong (SAR of China)	17.6	18.8	-1.2	-6.5
Thailand	15.3	13.0	2.3	17.9
Malaysia	15.2	12.3	2.8	23.0
China	14.8	15.7	-0.8	-5.2
Fiji	14.4	12.0	2.4	19.7
Singapore	14.0	11.4	2.5	22.2

### STATISTICAL SIGNIFICANCE

The above presentation of movements in estimates does not consider whether the change in movement is statistically significant. Care should be taken when interpreting the impact of numeric and/or percentage change. Please see the Standard Errors section on page 28 for more detail.

## MAIN FEATURES *continued*

### SHORT-TERM VISITOR DEPARTURES

In 2003 there were 4,789,800 visitors who departed Australia after a stay of less than 12 months, down 2.1% on 2002. Comparing 2003 with 2002, visitors who spent most time in Northern Territory declined 20.6%, New South Wales declined 5.4% and Western Australia 2.3%. Increases occurred for Victoria (up 5.4%), the Australian Capital Territory (up 5.8%) and Tasmania (up 5.6%).

### PERMANENT AND LONG-TERM MOVEMENTS

There were 9,080 permanent (settler) arrivals to Australia during December 2003, an increase of 25% compared to December 2002 (7,250 movements). Settlers born in the United Kingdom (18%) accounted for the largest proportion of permanent arrivals for December 2003. The second largest proportion of settlers were born in New Zealand (15%).

Statistics on OAD relate to the number of movements of travellers rather than the number of travellers. Therefore, care should be taken when using long-term arrivals data as it is known some individuals who travel multiple times in a year are counted each time they cross Australia's borders (see paragraph 5 of Explanatory Notes). Long-term arrivals in this publication are not an appropriate source of migration statistics. For further information refer to *Australian Demographic Statistics* (cat. no. 3101.0).

There were 5,280 Australian residents departing permanently from Australia during December 2003, an increase of 17% compared to December 2002 (4,510 movements).

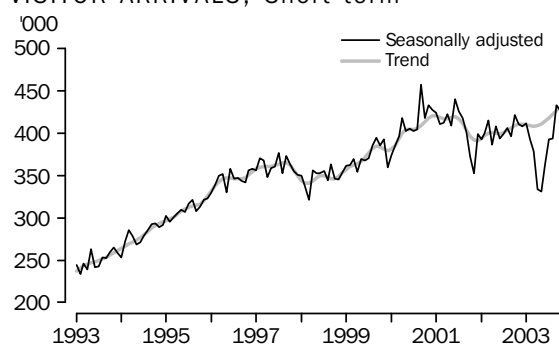
### SHORT-TERM VISITOR ARRIVALS IN 2003 — YEAR IN REVIEW

In 2003 there were 4,745,900 short-term visitor arrivals to Australia, representing a decrease of 2% compared to 2002. This is the third year in which a decline in short-term visitor arrivals was recorded. However, the time series is affected by events such as the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games, which resulted in higher than usual overseas visitor arrivals for that year.

#### *Impact of world events*

Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and anticipation and commencement of military action in Iraq had a significant impact on short-term visitor arrivals to Australia in the first half of 2003. In seasonally adjusted terms, February to May 2003 recorded consecutive monthly declines in the number of overseas visitors. May 2003 (330,800 movements) recorded the lowest monthly number of seasonally adjusted movements for the year, and April 2003 experienced the largest monthly numeric and percentage decline (down 44,600 movements or 12%). This was the largest down-turn in short-term visitor arrivals ever recorded, even when compared to other significant world events, such as the Asian recession (1997 – 1998), and the 9/11 terrorist attacks (2001).

VISITOR ARRIVALS, Short-term



## MAIN FEATURES *continued*

### *Impact of world events continued*

Since the trough experienced in May 2003, monthly seasonally adjusted estimates have indicated a recovery in short-term visitor arrivals to Australia. December 2003 (440,800 movements) experienced the peak monthly number of arrivals for the year, representing an increase of 33% compared to May 2003.

In seasonally adjusted terms, the quarters ended September and December 2003 both experienced an increase in visitors compared to the corresponding periods in 2002 (up 2% and 5% respectively). The large increase of visitors during this period may be attributed to people taking previously postponed travel and Australia hosting the 2003 Rugby World Cup (10 September 2003 – 22 November 2003).

The trend series smoothes out the affect of one-off, non-seasonal events, such as the Rugby World Cup, from the seasonally adjusted series, and reveals the underlying behaviour of the series without the influence of such events. August to December 2003 recorded high monthly trend estimates for short-term visitor arrivals to Australia (peaking in December 2003 at 440,000 movements), exceeding the high levels experienced after the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games (peaking in January 2001 at 420,600 movements). This may indicate a regaining confidence in travel to Australia after the many world events that have impacted on international travel.

### *Country of residence*

In original terms, the main countries of residence of short-term visitor arrivals to Australia in 2003 were New Zealand (18%) and the United Kingdom (14%), both of which also recorded positive growth compared to 2002 (up 6% and 5% respectively). Of the top 10 source countries for 2003, visitors from Korea recorded the largest percentage increase compared to 2002 (up 9% or 17,600 movements). This was the fifth consecutive year in which visitors from Korea experienced an annual increase. The United States of America continued to be a major source of visitor arrivals to Australia in 2003 (accounting for 9%), but experienced a decrease of 3% (or 12,300 movements) compared to 2002.

Visitor arrivals from Northeast and Southeast Asia decreased by 9% and 7% respectively compared to 2002. This can be largely attributed to the impact of SARS, with large declines recorded from March to May 2003 compared to the corresponding period in 2002 (down 26% and 28% respectively). In 2003, visitor arrivals from Hong Kong (down 14%), Japan, Singapore (both down 12%) and Thailand (down 11%) all experienced annual declines compared with 2002. Arrivals from China also experienced a down-turn of 7% (or 13,900 movements) in 2003, after recording annual increases of 31% in 2001 and 20% in 2002. However, the 2003 December quarter recorded an increase of 15% or 7,800 movements compared to the corresponding period in 2002, which may indicate regaining confidence in travel of visitors from China.

## TOTAL MOVEMENT, ARRIVALS—Category of Movement

	PERMANENT		LONG-TERM		SHORT-TERM(a)				
	Settlers	Australian residents	Overseas visitors	Total permanent and long-term arrivals	Australian residents	Overseas visitors (Original)	Overseas visitors (Seasonally adjusted)(b)	Overseas visitors (Trend)(c)	Total arrivals(a)
<b>Calendar years</b>									
2001	100 890	85 130	170 390	356 410	3 449.9	4 855.7	..	..	8 662.1
2002	89 350	92 400	180 240	361 990	3 394.9	4 841.2	..	..	8 598.1
2003	103 890	98 840	185 730	388 450	3 330.8	4 745.9	..	..	8 465.1
<b>Financial years</b>									
2000–01	107 370	82 890	158 310	348 570	3 543.0	5 031.3	..	..	8 922.9
2001–02	88 900	88 600	175 870	353 370	3 345.0	4 768.3	..	..	8 466.6
2002–03	93 910	95 780	184 100	373 790	3 309.9	4 655.8	..	..	8 339.4
<b>2002(d)</b>									
October	6 780	7 360	13 300	27 450	372.5	428.9	421.3	409.3	828.8
November	7 210	8 520	9 780	25 500	252.4	437.0	410.7	410.5	714.9
December	7 250	14 790	9 200	31 230	204.6	534.0	408.0	410.6	769.8
<b>2003</b>									
January	7 870	8 610	24 690	41 170	401.1	396.6	411.9	409.5	838.9
February	7 310	7 310	35 040	49 670	243.5	427.5	393.3	408.6	720.6
March	8 410	7 370	15 360	31 140	249.2	392.5	378.5	408.2	672.8
April	8 230	7 250	9 880	25 350	227.2	321.5	333.9	409.0	574.1
May	8 000	5 660	8 250	21 910	205.1	260.9	330.8	411.1	487.9
June	9 470	7 140	10 190	26 810	210.8	308.3	363.7	413.9	545.9
July	9 750	7 950	27 090	44 790	311.2	415.5	393.1	417.7	771.5
August	9 930	7 480	11 980	29 390	283.9	362.2	393.8	422.0	675.6
September	9 010	7 700	10 810	27 510	313.9	385.6	433.6	426.6	727.0
October	8 100	8 150	13 380	29 620	374.3	435.3	426.8	431.3	839.3
November	8 740	8 890	10 350	27 980	272.8	473.3	439.3	435.6	774.1
December	9 080	15 330	8 710	33 110	237.8	566.6	440.8	440.0	837.5

.. not applicable

(a) Figures for short-term movement are based on a sample and are subject to sampling error. See paragraph 9 and 10 of Explanatory Notes for more detail.

(b) See paragraphs 15 to 18 of Explanatory Notes.

(c) See paragraphs 19 to 22 of Explanatory Notes

(d) Monthly numbers do not add to yearly total because of rounding.

## TOTAL MOVEMENT, DEPARTURES—Category of Movement

	PERMANENT		LONG-TERM		SHORT-TERM (a)				
	Australian residents	Australian residents	Overseas visitors	Total permanent and long-term departures	Australian residents (Original)	Australian residents (Seasonally adjusted) (b)	Australian residents (Trend) (c)	Overseas visitors	Total departures (a)
	no.	no.	no.	no.	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
<b>Calendar years</b>									
2001	47 600	93 460	75 070	216 130	3 442.6	..	..	4 918.1	8 576.8
2002	49 080	89 990	83 870	222 940	3 461.0	..	..	4 894.7	8 578.7
2003	54 120	83 990	86 780	224 890	3 388.0	..	..	4 789.8	8 402.6
<b>Financial years</b>									
2000–01	46 520	92 950	73 430	212 900	3 577.3	..	..	5 055.8	8 846.1
2001–02	48 240	92 070	79 380	219 690	3 367.9	..	..	4 837.8	8 425.3
2002–03	50 460	86 210	82 890	219 570	3 293.3	..	..	4 714.6	8 227.5
<b>2002 (d)</b>									
October	3 470	5 600	5 370	14 430	268.4	290.7	284.8	392.9	675.7
November	3 550	5 310	7 920	16 790	251.1	281.9	285.7	455.2	723.1
December	4 510	6 870	13 050	24 430	365.1	289.2	286.1	446.9	836.4
<b>2003</b>									
January	6 840	12 620	7 440	26 900	249.1	289.8	286.1	510.5	786.5
February	3 980	7 170	5 910	17 050	216.4	284.1	286.1	397.7	631.1
March	4 230	7 340	6 080	17 660	245.5	252.1	286.0	421.6	684.7
April	4 180	6 850	5 210	16 240	232.1	232.4	286.4	350.1	598.5
May	3 970	7 060	4 730	15 760	236.3	235.3	287.4	288.3	540.4
June	3 570	5 680	7 430	16 680	275.6	253.3	288.8	312.0	604.3
July	4 670	6 710	7 560	18 930	296.5	282.1	291.5	368.0	683.4
August	5 350	7 950	6 560	19 860	296.9	293.0	295.8	413.4	730.2
September	3 990	5 360	6 160	15 520	354.3	303.5	301.5	359.7	729.6
October	3 850	5 060	5 570	14 480	277.9	304.0	308.6	400.3	692.7
November	4 200	5 390	9 710	19 310	287.2	314.6	316.0	492.1	798.6
December	5 280	6 790	14 430	26 500	420.2	336.3	322.8	476.0	922.7

.. not applicable

(a) Figures for short-term movement are based on a sample and are subject to sampling error. See paragraph 9 and 10 of Explanatory Notes for more detail.

(b) See paragraphs 15 to 18 of Explanatory Notes.

(c) See paragraphs 19 to 22 of Explanatory Notes.

(d) Monthly numbers do not add to yearly total because of rounding.

## SHORT-TERM MOVEMENT(a), VISITOR ARRIVALS—Country of Residence(b)

Country of residence	CALENDAR YEAR		FINANCIAL YEAR		QUARTER ENDED		NOVEMBER		DECEMBER		
	2002	2003	2001-02	2002-03	DECEMBER	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
<b>OCEANIA AND ANTARTICA —</b>											
Fiji	23.2	25.5	24.0	23.7	7.5	8.6	2.4	2.5	3.1	3.5	
New Caledonia	30.5	33.6	29.1	32.6	8.1	8.4	2.6	2.9	3.0	2.9	
New Zealand	790.1	839.1	787.7	793.1	213.0	243.2	66.1	77.7	68.1	82.5	
Papua New Guinea	31.2	27.3	35.7	26.7	6.9	7.7	2.2	2.3	2.6	3.1	
Other	30.0	31.0	31.0	28.7	8.3	9.8	2.5	3.1	3.0	4.0	
<i>Total</i>	905.0	956.5	907.5	904.7	243.8	277.7	75.8	88.6	79.9	96.0	
<b>EUROPE AND THE FORMER USSR —</b>											
Austria	19.0	18.8	18.9	18.9	6.1	6.3	2.1	1.9	2.3	2.4	
Belgium	10.8	9.9	10.8	10.6	3.9	3.1	1.3	1.0	1.4	1.3	
Denmark	18.9	19.0	18.3	18.6	6.5	6.2	2.0	1.7	2.4	2.5	
Former USSR and the Baltic States	8.9	8.1	9.3	8.5	2.9	2.6	0.7	0.9	1.1	1.1	
France	49.6	51.4	52.0	46.3	13.2	16.9	4.1	6.7	5.4	5.6	
Germany	134.8	137.9	136.8	134.0	43.3	42.8	14.0	12.8	13.0	15.6	
Greece	7.0	5.7	7.5	5.4	2.1	2.5	0.6	0.7	1.1	1.5	
Ireland	48.0	53.0	50.6	47.2	14.8	20.9	4.3	4.2	6.3	7.4	
Italy	43.3	41.3	41.1	42.5	14.7	13.8	3.6	3.6	6.7	6.5	
Netherlands	53.0	51.0	54.6	52.1	18.9	16.8	6.0	5.2	6.4	6.4	
Norway	16.9	17.2	16.4	17.5	5.0	4.6	1.4	1.3	2.2	2.1	
Spain	12.5	12.5	12.7	12.1	3.9	4.3	1.5	1.4	1.1	1.3	
Sweden	30.9	31.8	30.2	31.8	12.1	11.9	3.4	3.4	5.5	5.8	
Switzerland	41.5	40.9	43.4	41.2	15.0	14.3	4.9	4.5	6.2	6.1	
United Kingdom	642.7	672.8	627.1	644.2	224.5	243.9	66.7	74.3	103.3	106.2	
Other	42.8	40.8	42.8	39.6	14.5	14.4	4.6	4.6	5.4	6.1	
<i>Total</i>	1 180.5	1 212.0	1 172.2	1 170.4	401.5	425.2	121.2	128.2	169.9	178.0	
<b>MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA —</b>											
Israel	15.1	13.3	15.7	13.2	3.9	3.8	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.3	
Other	36.4	39.3	40.6	37.0	8.3	10.1	2.5	3.3	3.6	4.1	
<i>Total</i>	51.5	52.7	56.3	50.2	12.2	13.9	3.9	4.6	4.9	5.4	
<b>SOUTHEAST ASIA —</b>											
Brunei	7.2	7.8	7.9	6.9	1.6	2.3	0.4	0.7	0.8	1.0	
Indonesia	89.4	90.3	94.7	86.9	25.6	29.2	5.1	10.3	13.1	12.5	
Malaysia	159.0	155.6	154.3	142.4	44.7	50.9	14.1	18.6	18.4	18.0	
Philippines	28.5	27.0	29.9	25.4	6.4	8.0	2.4	2.4	1.8	2.9	
Singapore	286.9	253.4	295.8	261.6	92.1	84.9	32.6	28.3	37.9	36.4	
Thailand	82.7	73.2	80.0	75.5	19.6	18.2	4.8	4.3	6.2	5.7	
Other	20.2	18.1	20.2	19.0	5.5	5.0	1.4	1.5	1.7	1.8	
<i>Total</i>	673.8	625.3	682.7	617.7	195.5	198.6	60.8	65.9	79.8	78.4	
<b>NORTHEAST ASIA —</b>											
China	190.0	176.1	172.3	177.1	50.7	58.5	17.8	19.8	18.2	22.0	
Hong Kong (SAR of China)	150.9	129.3	148.6	140.7	37.7	33.4	10.1	10.2	15.2	13.3	
Japan	715.5	627.7	659.2	658.6	196.0	192.6	64.2	63.3	70.0	73.0	
Korea	189.7	207.3	181.1	195.8	57.4	60.0	20.2	22.5	18.9	18.2	
Taiwan	97.4	87.7	99.1	80.8	19.1	21.9	5.6	6.5	6.9	7.3	
Other	1.9	1.8	2.0	1.8	0.5	0.6	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	
<i>Total</i>	1 345.5	1 230.0	1 262.4	1 254.8	361.4	366.9	118.1	122.5	129.4	134.1	
<b>SOUTHERN ASIA —</b>											
India	45.0	45.6	47.3	41.2	11.5	13.2	3.5	3.9	4.1	5.4	
Other	13.9	15.9	14.1	14.1	3.8	4.8	0.9	1.2	1.8	2.2	
<i>Total</i>	58.9	61.5	61.4	55.3	15.3	18.0	4.4	5.2	5.9	7.6	

(a) Figures for short-term movement are based on a sample and are subject to sampling error. See paragraphs 9 and 10 of Explanatory Notes for more detail.

(b) See paragraphs 7 and 8 of Explanatory Notes.

Note: Components may not sum to total due to rounding. See paragraph 11 of Explanatory Notes.



SHORT-TERM MOVEMENT(a), VISITOR ARRIVALS—Country of Residence(b) *continued*

<i>Country of residence</i>	CALENDAR YEAR		FINANCIAL YEAR		QUARTER ENDED		NOVEMBER		DECEMBER	
	.....		.....		DECEMBER		.....		.....	
	2002	2003	2001-02	2002-03	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
.....										
THE AMERICAS —										
Canada	90.9	87.9	93.0	86.5	27.5	28.2	8.9	9.4	10.4	10.7
United States of America	434.5	422.1	424.4	423.5	114.1	112.0	35.6	37.0	41.1	42.6
Other	30.8	27.4	33.6	27.1	7.8	8.6	2.3	2.5	3.1	3.9
<i>Total</i>	556.2	537.5	551.1	537.1	149.4	148.9	46.8	48.9	54.7	57.1
AFRICA (excluding North Africa) —										
South Africa	51.0	52.7	55.7	47.5	15.0	20.5	4.2	7.4	6.7	7.3
Other	16.3	16.4	17.0	15.2	4.8	5.5	1.4	1.9	2.3	2.7
<i>Total</i>	67.3	69.2	72.7	62.7	19.8	26.0	5.7	9.3	8.9	10.0
Not stated/Inadequately described	2.6	1.3	2.0	2.7	1.1	—	0.4	—	0.6	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>4 841.2</b>	<b>4 745.9</b>	<b>4 768.3</b>	<b>4 655.8</b>	<b>1 399.8</b>	<b>1 475.2</b>	<b>437.0</b>	<b>473.3</b>	<b>534.0</b>	<b>566.6</b>

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Figures for short-term movement are based on a sample and are subject to sampling error. See paragraphs 9 and 10 of Explanatory Notes for more detail.

(b) See paragraphs 7 and 8 of Explanatory Notes.

Note: Components may not sum to total due to rounding. See paragraph 11 of Explanatory Notes.

## SHORT-TERM MOVEMENT(a), VISITOR ARRIVALS—Intended Length of Stay and Main Reason for Journey

	CALENDAR YEAR		FINANCIAL YEAR		QUARTER ENDED		NOVEMBER		DECEMBER	
					DECEMBER					
	2002	2003	2001-02	2002-03	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
<b>Intended length of stay</b>										
Under 1 week	1 357.9	1 320.0	1 286.6	1 281.6	375.9	409.2	133.2	149.9	120.3	128.9
1 and under 2 weeks	1 435.5	1 347.9	1 446.4	1 348.2	395.3	405.0	127.3	140.6	136.6	146.4
2 weeks and under 1 month	997.8	1 008.4	1 005.0	986.3	325.1	340.7	85.5	93.2	153.7	161.0
1 and under 2 months	411.0	416.0	415.8	407.7	137.4	142.4	32.1	33.3	70.6	73.3
2 and under 3 months	150.3	148.6	147.6	146.6	46.1	47.1	15.4	14.3	17.4	17.9
3 and under 6 months	228.7	229.9	215.8	222.5	64.5	68.1	23.8	23.7	20.2	21.4
6 and under 12 months	260.0	275.1	251.1	262.9	55.6	62.9	19.7	18.4	15.1	17.8
<b>Total(b)</b>	<b>4 841.2</b>	<b>4 745.9</b>	<b>4 768.3</b>	<b>4 655.8</b>	<b>1 399.8</b>	<b>1 475.2</b>	<b>437.0</b>	<b>473.3</b>	<b>534.0</b>	<b>566.6</b>
<b>Main reason for journey</b>										
Convention/conference	129.9	142.5	134.7	126.0	31.2	34.6	12.0	13.7	5.0	8.6
Business	442.5	447.5	429.1	429.7	116.0	124.9	44.8	49.4	29.0	30.3
Visiting friends/relatives	847.6	932.2	854.7	864.8	291.4	320.9	76.9	87.3	141.6	154.1
Holiday	2 401.5	2 440.6	2 296.4	2 361.2	770.3	803.8	243.1	262.3	297.2	311.0
Employment	81.9	83.9	79.3	67.6	16.7	26.8	6.1	8.6	4.4	8.5
Education	218.9	225.6	211.6	222.8	30.2	33.8	8.5	9.7	6.9	8.1
Other and not stated(c)	719.0	473.5	762.4	583.7	144.1	130.4	45.7	42.3	49.8	45.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>4 841.2</b>	<b>4 745.9</b>	<b>4 768.3</b>	<b>4 655.8</b>	<b>1 399.8</b>	<b>1 475.2</b>	<b>437.0</b>	<b>473.3</b>	<b>534.0</b>	<b>566.6</b>

(a) Figures for short-term movement are based on a sample and are subject to sampling error. See paragraphs 9 and 10 of Explanatory Notes.

(b) Includes not stated.

(c) Includes 'Exhibition' from July 1998.

Note: Components may not sum to total due to rounding. See paragraph 11 of Explanatory Notes.

## SHORT-TERM MOVEMENT(a), RESIDENT DEPARTURES—Main Destination(b)

	CALENDAR YEAR		FINANCIAL YEAR		QUARTER ENDED		NOVEMBER		DECEMBER	
					DECEMBER				DECEMBER	
	2002	2003	2001-02	2002-03	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
<i>Main destination</i>	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
<b>OCEANIA AND ANTARTICA —</b>										
Fiji	128.3	145.2	113.3	129.2	35.7	41.4	10.6	11.5	12.0	14.4
New Caledonia	17.3	15.3	18.5	15.8	4.5	4.0	1.7	0.7	1.3	1.5
New Zealand	597.3	662.8	592.2	615.3	171.7	201.9	47.9	55.1	79.1	96.5
Norfolk Island	27.4	33.4	25.0	30.6	8.2	9.4	2.3	3.2	3.3	2.8
Papua New Guinea	33.3	34.6	30.6	34.2	8.8	9.0	2.4	3.2	2.8	3.0
Vanuatu	28.7	27.2	30.8	27.2	7.3	7.6	2.1	2.3	3.0	2.9
Other	33.7	41.1	33.2	35.8	10.5	13.3	3.4	3.4	4.4	5.9
<i>Total</i>	865.9	959.7	843.7	888.2	246.7	286.6	70.4	79.3	105.9	127.0
<b>EUROPE AND THE FORMER USSR —</b>										
France	51.0	50.4	45.2	51.2	11.3	9.7	2.4	2.6	5.5	4.5
Germany	44.5	39.6	43.5	42.1	10.6	9.9	3.2	2.9	4.6	3.8
Greece	37.2	33.3	38.2	33.6	3.5	3.4	0.9	0.7	1.4	1.2
Ireland	25.5	25.8	26.1	24.3	5.1	5.6	1.1	1.0	2.1	2.9
Italy	75.0	70.9	70.8	71.0	13.4	13.3	3.6	3.4	4.5	5.6
Netherlands	15.9	17.2	13.2	17.6	3.2	3.3	1.2	0.7	1.3	1.2
Poland	8.3	6.5	10.4	6.1	1.3	1.6	0.3	0.6	0.6	0.8
Spain	18.1	18.7	16.5	18.8	3.4	3.8	0.5	1.3	1.5	1.6
Switzerland	13.4	13.9	11.7	14.6	4.2	3.5	1.0	1.3	2.3	1.5
United Kingdom	318.3	312.9	308.0	308.9	66.9	69.3	16.8	18.2	27.6	29.8
Other	107.6	109.0	101.1	107.2	19.8	19.7	4.7	6.1	10.0	9.0
<i>Total</i>	714.7	698.1	684.8	695.3	142.7	143.0	35.7	38.7	61.4	61.8
<b>MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA —</b>										
Israel	5.5	7.3	5.5	5.2	1.4	2.7	0.4	0.5	0.8	1.4
Lebanon	21.0	23.7	17.1	20.3	4.7	5.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	2.9
Turkey	18.3	13.1	19.2	12.7	2.2	2.5	0.7	1.0	0.6	0.6
Other	38.6	43.7	35.3	38.4	10.9	15.3	3.6	4.6	4.0	6.6
<i>Total</i>	83.5	87.8	77.0	76.6	19.3	26.1	6.3	7.9	7.2	11.5
<b>SOUTHEAST ASIA —</b>										
Indonesia	241.7	186.4	270.9	194.4	37.3	58.8	7.9	16.9	11.7	24.8
Malaysia	109.5	100.9	109.5	97.8	28.7	34.5	6.9	9.2	12.3	15.2
Philippines	60.3	59.6	58.3	55.7	18.2	21.5	5.3	6.1	8.2	10.6
Singapore	149.2	124.3	163.2	119.1	33.4	39.0	11.5	12.2	11.4	14.0
Thailand	168.9	128.2	163.4	150.5	45.1	40.7	12.1	11.4	13.0	15.3
Viet Nam	79.1	76.4	67.9	74.1	26.6	28.3	8.0	8.6	13.4	13.7
Other	30.3	29.1	27.7	30.4	9.6	10.1	2.6	3.0	4.1	4.3
<i>Total</i>	839.0	704.9	860.9	721.9	198.9	232.9	54.3	67.5	74.2	97.9
<b>NORTHEAST ASIA —</b>										
China	136.9	114.2	121.3	117.9	40.5	39.8	11.3	10.7	15.7	14.8
Hong Kong (SAR of China)	140.5	115.0	142.0	114.8	41.6	41.8	13.2	13.0	18.8	17.6
Japan	71.4	75.6	71.6	72.5	18.2	20.5	5.3	5.9	6.2	7.2
Korea	24.6	25.1	23.9	24.7	7.5	6.8	2.2	1.7	2.7	2.5
Taiwan	36.8	34.0	35.4	33.2	11.3	12.3	3.6	3.8	5.0	5.1
Other	1.9	2.2	1.9	1.8	0.6	0.9	0.2	0.5	0.1	0.3
<i>Total</i>	412.2	366.0	396.1	364.8	119.6	122.1	35.8	35.5	48.5	47.4
<b>SOUTHERN ASIA —</b>										
India	45.8	55.0	44.8	46.7	19.8	25.1	8.0	10.2	7.7	10.1
Sri Lanka	17.4	21.3	13.4	19.1	6.8	8.1	2.2	2.9	3.4	4.4
Other	16.6	20.5	17.1	17.4	6.8	8.1	2.8	3.5	2.3	2.1
<i>Total</i>	79.7	96.8	75.3	83.1	33.4	41.3	13.1	16.6	13.4	16.5

(a) Figures for short-term movement are based on a sample and are subject to sampling error. See paragraphs 9 and 10 of Explanatory Notes for more detail.

(b) See paragraphs 7 and 8 of Explanatory Notes.

Note: Components may not sum to total due to rounding. See paragraph 11 of Explanatory Notes.

SHORT-TERM MOVEMENT(a), RESIDENT DEPARTURES—Main Destination(b) *continued*

	CALENDAR YEAR		FINANCIAL YEAR		QUARTER ENDED		NOVEMBER		DECEMBER	
					DECEMBER					
	2002	2003	2001-02	2002-03	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
<i>Main destination</i>	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
.....										
THE AMERICAS —										
Canada	68.8	66.6	64.2	70.2	15.6	14.3	3.2	2.6	9.6	9.2
United States of America	299.1	296.3	276.0	287.4	75.5	82.4	22.0	26.1	30.2	33.7
Other	33.5	42.1	30.7	40.3	13.4	15.2	4.7	5.5	5.5	6.1
<i>Total</i>	401.4	404.9	370.8	397.9	104.5	111.9	29.9	34.2	45.3	49.0
AFRICA (excluding North Africa) —										
South Africa	41.4	44.5	35.7	43.3	12.6	13.7	4.0	4.9	5.8	5.8
Other	20.8	23.4	21.1	19.8	6.3	7.3	1.5	2.5	3.1	3.2
<i>Total</i>	62.2	67.9	56.8	63.1	18.8	20.9	5.4	7.4	8.9	9.0
Not stated/Inadequately described	2.3	1.9	2.5	2.4	0.8	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>3 461.0</b>	<b>3 388.0</b>	<b>3 367.9</b>	<b>3 293.3</b>	<b>884.7</b>	<b>985.3</b>	<b>251.1</b>	<b>287.2</b>	<b>365.1</b>	<b>420.2</b>

(a) Figures for short-term movement are based on a sample and are subject to sampling error. See paragraphs 9 and 10 of Explanatory Notes for more detail.

(b) See paragraphs 7 and 8 of Explanatory Notes.

Note: Components may not sum to total due to rounding. See paragraph 11 of Explanatory Notes.

## SHORT-TERM MOVEMENT(a), RESIDENT DEPARTURES—Intended Length of Stay and Main Reason for Journey

	CALENDAR YEAR		FINANCIAL YEAR		QUARTER ENDED		NOVEMBER		DECEMBER	
					DECEMBER				DECEMBER	
	2002	2003	2001-02	2002-03	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
<b>Intended length of stay</b>										
Under 1 week	415.3	414.4	432.1	376.5	95.1	118.1	37.4	43.2	22.7	30.3
1 and under 2 weeks	1 008.5	930.9	989.2	940.7	243.1	261.0	73.4	84.8	71.8	84.1
2 weeks and under 1 month	924.2	952.9	882.1	899.0	240.7	284.5	54.7	65.0	116.4	142.2
1 and under 2 months	567.2	555.1	532.5	553.5	174.1	180.5	35.1	36.2	103.4	112.4
2 and under 3 months	193.7	188.0	183.5	181.1	58.6	63.6	21.7	26.7	27.1	26.7
3 and under 6 months	183.5	173.1	175.5	174.9	42.6	44.2	19.0	19.4	13.1	11.8
6 and under 12 months	168.6	173.6	173.0	167.8	30.5	33.3	9.7	11.8	10.7	12.6
<b>Total(b)</b>	<b>3 461.0</b>	<b>3 388.0</b>	<b>3 367.9</b>	<b>3 293.3</b>	<b>884.7</b>	<b>985.3</b>	<b>251.1</b>	<b>287.2</b>	<b>365.1</b>	<b>420.2</b>
<b>Main reason for journey</b>										
Convention/conference	135.2	137.7	130.7	123.1	27.8	36.9	10.3	14.7	4.0	4.7
Business	560.4	554.4	543.5	531.9	131.9	143.3	50.8	58.2	30.0	29.9
Visiting friends/relatives	879.7	905.5	826.8	860.6	267.5	294.3	72.4	76.4	137.3	155.3
Holiday	1 479.2	1 421.7	1 467.6	1 385.1	356.9	420.2	87.6	109.6	154.5	195.4
Employment	101.4	99.6	98.2	99.3	23.0	22.9	7.5	7.6	7.4	7.0
Education	44.0	45.8	46.6	42.8	9.8	9.6	3.6	3.3	4.3	3.3
Other and not stated(c)	261.0	223.4	254.4	250.5	67.8	58.0	19.0	17.4	27.6	24.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>3 461.0</b>	<b>3 388.0</b>	<b>3 367.9</b>	<b>3 293.3</b>	<b>884.7</b>	<b>985.3</b>	<b>251.1</b>	<b>287.2</b>	<b>365.1</b>	<b>420.2</b>

(a) Figures for short-term movement are based on a sample and are subject to sampling error. See paragraphs 9 and 10 of Explanatory Notes for more detail.

(b) Includes not stated.

(c) Includes 'Exhibition' from July 1998.

Note: Components may not sum to total due to rounding. See paragraph 11 of Explanatory Notes.

## SHORT-TERM MOVEMENT(a), VISITOR DEPARTURES—State Where Spent Most Time

State where spent most time	CALENDAR YEAR		FINANCIAL YEAR		QUARTER ENDED		NOVEMBER		DECEMBER	
	2002	2003	2001-02	2002-03	DECEMBER		2002	2003	2002	2003
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
New South Wales	2 058.3	1 947.8	2 053.6	1 946.5	536.1	539.2	190.5	201.2	180.0	183.7
Victoria	762.8	803.9	756.3	730.8	204.7	266.7	67.5	93.4	76.3	102.7
Queensland	1 347.8	1 331.1	1 300.3	1 336.0	358.0	362.6	128.2	129.9	116.0	113.6
South Australia	114.1	115.5	114.9	109.9	31.9	34.1	11.4	10.7	13.3	14.8
Western Australia	460.4	450.0	450.3	450.5	126.3	123.8	44.0	42.0	48.3	44.0
Tasmania	38.9	41.1	37.1	38.5	11.4	13.9	4.0	4.9	5.1	6.7
Northern Territory(b)	70.6	56.0	78.0	63.1	16.6	14.3	6.0	5.3	4.2	4.4
Australian Capital Territory	41.3	43.7	46.6	38.8	10.0	13.4	3.5	4.8	3.7	5.8
Other Territories(c)	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.5	0.1	0.4	—	—	0.1	0.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>4 894.7</b>	<b>4 789.8</b>	<b>4 837.8</b>	<b>4 714.6</b>	<b>1 295.0</b>	<b>1 368.5</b>	<b>455.2</b>	<b>492.1</b>	<b>446.9</b>	<b>476.0</b>

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Figures for short-term movement are based on a sample and are subject to sampling error. See paragraphs 9 and 10 of Explanatory Notes.

(b) See paragraph on state where spent most time in appendix 2.

(c) Includes territories of Christmas Island, Cocos (Keeling) Islands and Jervis Bay.

Note: Components may not sum to total due to rounding. See paragraph 11 of Explanatory Notes.

## PERMANENT MOVEMENT, SETTLERS—Country of Birth(a)

Country of birth	CALENDAR YEAR		FINANCIAL YEAR		QUARTER ENDED		NOVEMBER		DECEMBER	
	.....		.....		DECEMBER		.....		.....	
	2002	2003	2001-02	2002-03	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.
<b>Major group —</b>										
Oceania and Antarctica	17 230	16 280	19 150	15 520	3 660	4 300	1 150	1 330	1 360	1 700
Europe and the Former USSR	18 500	25 100	17 410	20 610	4 750	7 080	1 790	2 460	1 410	2 320
Middle East and North Africa	8 210	11 170	6 000	10 550	2 480	2 360	900	960	790	570
Southeast Asia	14 520	15 840	14 460	15 280	3 610	4 160	1 240	1 560	1 270	1 410
Northeast Asia	10 740	10 370	10 720	10 350	2 300	2 210	710	650	780	780
Southern Asia	9 130	11 670	9 190	9 980	1 990	2 520	640	790	710	980
The Americas	2 910	3 250	2 630	3 240	750	850	230	280	260	310
Africa (excluding North Africa)	8 090	10 160	9 310	8 370	1 700	2 410	540	700	660	1 010
<b>Total(b)</b>	<b>89 350</b>	<b>103 890</b>	<b>88 900</b>	<b>93 910</b>	<b>21 240</b>	<b>25 910</b>	<b>7 210</b>	<b>8 740</b>	<b>7 250</b>	<b>9 080</b>
<b>Major source countries —</b>										
Bosnia-Herzegovina	270	140	400	160	30	20	10	10	10	10
China	6 950	6 670	6 710	6 660	1 530	1 440	490	430	500	510
Fiji	1 410	1 700	1 610	1 610	340	410	100	140	140	150
Former USSR and the Baltic States	1 210	1 150	1 150	1 100	260	340	100	120	70	130
Yugoslavia, Federal Republic of(c)	1 820	1 350	2 080	1 630	320	210	180	80	50	60
Hong Kong (SAR of China)	950	1 080	930	1 030	240	250	80	80	70	80
India	4 720	7 220	5 090	5 780	1 120	1 610	350	520	430	610
Indonesia	3 060	2 770	4 220	3 030	670	640	180	250	290	230
New Zealand	14 080	13 030	15 660	12 370	2 930	3 470	940	1 060	1 060	1 360
Philippines	3 270	3 290	2 840	3 190	720	830	230	290	180	280
South Africa	4 670	5 620	5 710	4 600	830	1 270	230	350	350	640
Taiwan	1 360	1 050	1 720	1 110	180	140	50	40	70	50
United Kingdom	10 160	16 940	8 750	12 510	2 790	5 020	990	1 770	840	1 630
United States of America	1 230	1 310	1 140	1 320	320	330	90	90	120	130
Viet Nam	2 280	2 380	1 920	2 570	560	510	210	180	190	170

(a) See paragraphs 7 and 8 of Explanatory Notes.

(b) Includes not stated/inadequately described.

(c) Includes vague responses which cannot be coded to any other category.

Note: Components may not sum to total due to rounding. See paragraph 11 of Explanatory Notes.

## EXPLANATORY NOTES

### INTRODUCTION

**1** This publication contains statistics of persons arriving in, and departing from, Australia, together with the major characteristics of travellers. More detailed statistics can be made available on request (see paragraph 26).

### SOURCE OF THE STATISTICS

**2** Persons arriving in, or departing from, Australia provide information in the form of incoming and outgoing passenger cards (see appendix 1). Incoming persons also provide information in visa applications, apart from people travelling as Australian and New Zealand citizens. These and other information available to the Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs (DIMIA) serve as a source for statistics of overseas arrivals and departures.

**3** In July 1998, DIMIA revised the incoming and outgoing passenger cards and associated procedures as well as computer systems. Following these changes, some questions on the passenger cards were not compulsory and answers to these questions were not checked by Customs officers. The question on marital status was deleted. Data on marital status is now derived from visa applications (only for certain visa classes) and is therefore not available for Australian or New Zealand citizens. The changes also affect the data for 'previous country of residence' which is imputed for Australian and New Zealand citizens. For more information see the May 1998 issue of this publication. Since July 1998, there have been additional minor changes to both incoming and outgoing passenger cards.

**4** From July 2001, DIMIA adopted a new passenger card processing system which involved electronic imaging of passenger cards and intelligent character recognition of the data stored in the images. This process has yielded several improvements to the processing of passenger card data, most notably the detailed information about missing values. There have also been several changes to data quality. Information on these changes appears in appendix 2.

### SCOPE

**5** The statistics in this publication relate to the number of movements of travellers rather than the number of travellers (i.e. 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. Similarly, these statistics exclude those persons not travelling under standard visa conditions, that is, unauthorised arrivals.

### STATE AND TERRITORY CLASSIFICATION

**6** Following the 1992 amendment to the Acts Interpretation Act to include the Indian Ocean Territories of Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands as part of geographic Australia, population estimates commencing with the September quarter 1993 include estimates for these two territories. To reflect this change, another category of the state/territory classification has been created, known as Other Territories. Other Territories includes Jervis Bay Territory, Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands. OAD data for Other Territories is not available prior to February 1995.

### COUNTRY CLASSIFICATION

**7** The classification of countries in this publication is the Australian Standard Classification of Countries for Social Statistics (ASCCSS). For more detailed information refer to the ABS publication *Australian Standard Classification of Countries for Social Statistics* (cat. no. 1269.0).

**8** The statistics on country of birth, citizenship, residence or main destination have certain limitations because of reporting on passenger cards. For instance, United Kingdom includes England, Scotland and Wales. Similarly Korea includes both the Republic of Korea and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.



## EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

### ESTIMATION METHOD

**9** 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. 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. Sample standard errors can be found on page 28 of this publication.

**10** Since January 1997 variable sample skips have been used in the selection of records to be sampled. Separate skips are applied for each country of citizenship and the skips may vary for each processing month. Over a year about 3.5% of all short term movements are selected for sampling.

**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. The sums of the components may not add to totals due to rounding. Analysis featured in the Key Points and Main Features of this publication is based on unrounded data. Calculations made on rounded data may differ to those published.

### 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, state and country of stay/residence are also imputed by reference to other related items. Information on non-response rates and data imputation appears in appendix 2.

**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 main reason for journey.

### SEASONAL ADJUSTMENT AND TREND ESTIMATES

**14** Seasonally adjusted and trend estimates of short-term overseas visitor arrivals and short-term Australian resident departures are shown in tables 1 and 2 respectively.

**15** Seasonally adjusted estimates are derived by estimating and removing systematic calendar related effects from the original series. In the short-term visitor arrival and short-term resident departure series, these calendar related effects are known as seasonal (e.g. increased travel in December due to the Christmas holiday period) and trading day influences (arising from the varying length of each month and the varying number of Sundays, Mondays, Tuesdays, etc. in each month). Each influence is estimated by separate seasonal and trading day factors which, when combined, are referred to as the combined adjustment factors.

**16** From July 2003, concurrent seasonal adjustment methodology has been used to derive the combined adjustment factors. This means that data from the current month are used in estimating seasonal and trading day factors for the current and previous months. Concurrent seasonal adjustment replaces the forward factor methodology used since seasonal adjustment of short-term visitor arrivals began in 1969 and short-term resident departures in 1976.

## EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

### SEASONAL ADJUSTMENT AND TREND ESTIMATES *continued*

**17** Concurrent adjustment can result in revisions each month to the seasonally adjusted estimates for earlier periods. However, in most instances, the only noticeable revisions will be to the combined adjustment factors for the current month, the previous month and the same month a year ago. Although there is no specific Information Paper on concurrent adjustment to short-term visitor arrivals or resident departure, more detail on the method in general can be found in the information paper, *Introduction of Concurrent Seasonal Adjustment into the Retail Trade Series* (cat. no. 8514.0).

**18** 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 and the fluctuation of the Australian dollar 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. Trend estimates take these irregular influences into account.

**19** The trend estimates of short-term overseas visitor arrivals and short-term Australian resident departures are derived by applying a 13-term Henderson-weighted moving average to all months of the respective seasonally adjusted series except the first and last six months. Trend series are created for the last six months by applying surrogates of the Henderson weighted moving average to the seasonally adjusted series.

**20** 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, see *A Guide to Interpreting Time Series—Monitoring Trends* (cat. no. 1349.0), released 4 August 2003.

**21** Trend estimates in this issue have taken the impact of Severe Acute Respiratory syndrome (SARS), the Second Gulf War and recent terrorist threats into account. These impacts have been estimated as transitional effects on the original time series data, based on recent evidence of a recovery in short-term visitor arrivals and short-term resident departures. These estimates may be revised with the availability of additional time series data and further evidence of the continuing recovery. Details of the methods used in this exercise are available on request.

**22** A break in the trend series for short-term resident departures has been created because of the effect of the Bali bombing in Indonesia on 12 October 2002. This impact has been estimated as a permanent effect as the number of Australia residents departing to Indonesia has not yet shown evidence of a recovery. These estimates may be revised with the availability of additional time series data when evidence of a recovery is apparent.

### RELATED PUBLICATIONS

**23** Users of these statistics may also wish to refer to the following ABS publications:

- *Short-term Visitor Arrival Estimates, Australia* (cat. no. 3401.0.55.001) — issued monthly.
- *Australian Demographic Statistics* (cat. no. 3101.0) — issued quarterly
- *Migration, Australia* (cat. no. 3412.0) — issued annually

**24** Related statistics are also published by the Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs, the Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources and the Bureau of Tourism Research.

## EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

### RELATED PUBLICATIONS

*continued*

**25** Current publications and other products produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications and Products, Australia* (cat. no. 1101.0). The Catalogue is available from any ABS office or the ABS web site <<http://www.abs.gov.au>>. The ABS also issues a daily Release Advice on the web site which details the products to be released in the week ahead.

### ADDITIONAL STATISTICS AVAILABLE

**26** As well as the statistics included in this and related publications, other relevant unpublished data are available for the following variables:

Citizenship (Nationality)

Country of birth

Age (Date of birth)

Sex

Marital status (not available for Australian or New Zealand citizens)

Category of travel

Permanent migrant

    Previous/future country of residence

    State of intended address/lived

Overseas visitor

    Intended/actual length of stay

    Main reason for journey

    Country of residence

    State of intended address in which most time spent

Australian residents

    Intended/actual length of stay overseas

    Country spent/intend to spend most time abroad

    State or territory of intended address/state or territory lived

Occupation (not available for short-term movements)

Country of embarkation/disembarkation

Airport/Port of arrival/departure

Arrival/departure date

Intention to live in Australia for next 12 months (not available for short-term movements)

### REFORMATTED PUBLICATION

**27** As a result of a dissemination review for Overseas Arrival and Departure Statistics, outlined in the *ABS Demography Working Paper 2003/4 — A New Dissemination Strategy for Overseas Arrival and Departure Statistics*, a number of changes were introduced in the May 2003 and June 2003 issues. Changes included the removal of preliminary data for short-term visitor arrivals, a new table structure and a reformatting of the time periods in tables 3 to 8. For more detail about these changes, refer to the following issues of this publication;

- May (Preliminary) 2003 — released 25 June 2003
- May 2003 — released 24 July 2003
- June 2003 — released 11 August 2003

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**28** This publication draws extensively on information provided by DIMIA. This continued cooperation is very much appreciated; without it, the statistics published would not be available. Information received by the ABS is treated in strict confidence as required by the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*.

# APPENDIX 1 PASSENGER CARDS

## INCOMING CARD - FRONT

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Incoming passenger card • Australia</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>PLEASE COMPLETE IN ENGLISH WITH A BLUE OR BLACK PEN</b></p> <p>▶ Family/surname <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/></p> <p>▶ Given names <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/></p> <p>▶ Passport number <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/></p> <p>◆ Flight number or name of ship <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/></p> <p>▶ Intended address in Australia <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>  <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/> State <input style="width: 20px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 20px;" type="text"/></p> <p>▶ Do you intend to live in Australia for the next 12 months? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>▶ If you are <b>NOT an Australian citizen</b>:</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Do you suffer from tuberculosis? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Do you have any criminal conviction/s? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">YOU MUST ANSWER EVERY QUESTION – IF UNSURE, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p>▶ Are you bringing into Australia:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Goods that may be prohibited or subject to restrictions, such as medicines, steroids, firearms, weapons of any kind or illicit drugs? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></li> <li>2. More than 1125mL of alcohol or 250 cigarettes or 250g of tobacco products? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></li> <li>3. Goods obtained overseas or purchased duty and/or tax free in Australia with a combined total price of more than AUD\$400, including gifts? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></li> <li>4. Goods/samples for business/commercial use? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></li> <li>5. AUD\$10,000 or more in Australian or foreign currency equivalent? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></li> </ol> <hr/> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. Any food - includes dried, fresh, preserved, cooked, uncooked? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></li> <li>7. Wooden articles, plants, parts of plants, traditional medicines or herbs, seeds, bulbs, straw, nuts? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></li> <li>8. Animals, parts of animals and animal products including equipment, eggs, biologicals, specimens, birds, fish, insects, shells, bee products, pet food? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></li> <li>9. Soil, or articles with soil attached, ie. sporting equipment, shoes, etc? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></li> </ol> <hr/> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ 10. Have you visited a rural area or been in contact with, or near, farm animals outside Australia in the past 30 days? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></li> <li>▶ 11. Have you been in Africa or South America in the last 6 days? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></li> </ol>
<p><b>DECLARATION</b>  <i>The information I have given is true, correct and complete. I understand failure to answer any questions may have serious consequences.</i></p>	<p><b>YOUR SIGNATURE</b> <input style="width: 150px;" type="text"/></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Day <input style="width: 20px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 20px;" type="text"/> Month <input style="width: 20px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 20px;" type="text"/> Year <input style="width: 20px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 20px;" type="text"/></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>TURN OVER THE CARD</b>  English</p>

## INCOMING CARD - BACK

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>PLEASE COMPLETE IN ENGLISH</b></p> <p>▶ In which country did you board this flight or ship? <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/></p> <p>◆ What is your usual occupation? <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/></p> <p>▶ Nationality as shown on passport <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/></p> <p>▶ Date of birth Day <input style="width: 20px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 20px;" type="text"/> Month <input style="width: 20px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 20px;" type="text"/> Year <input style="width: 20px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 20px;" type="text"/></p>	<p>▶ PLEASE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AND ANSWER A OR B OR C</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 30%; border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>A Migrating permanently to Australia</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></p> </div> <div style="width: 30%; border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>B Visitor or temporary entrant</b> <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>▶ Your intended length of stay in Australia Years <input style="width: 20px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 20px;" type="text"/> Months <input style="width: 20px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 20px;" type="text"/> OR Days <input style="width: 20px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 20px;" type="text"/></p> <p>▶ Your country of residence <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/></p> <p>▶ Your main reason for coming to Australia (X one only)</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Convention/conference <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Employment <input type="checkbox"/> 4 Holiday <input type="checkbox"/> 7</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Business <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Education <input type="checkbox"/> 5 Other <input type="checkbox"/> 8</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Visiting friends or relatives <input type="checkbox"/> 3 Exhibition <input type="checkbox"/> 6</p> </div> <div style="width: 30%; border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>C Resident returning to Australia</b> <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>▶ Country where you spent most time abroad <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/></p> </div> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p><b>MAKE SURE YOU HAVE COMPLETED BOTH SIDES OF THIS CARD. PRESENT THIS CARD ON ARRIVAL WITH YOUR PASSPORT.</b></p> </div>
<p><small>Information sought on this form is required to administer immigration, customs, quarantine, statistical, health, wildlife and currency laws of Australia and its collection is authorised by legislation. It will be disclosed only to agencies administering these areas and those entitled to receive it under Australian law. The leaflet <i>Safeguarding your personal information</i> is available at Australian ports and airports.</small></p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">07031506</p> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: 0.8em;">© Commonwealth of Australia 2003 15 (Design date 07/03) McMILLAN PRINT</p>

Incoming passenger card used from July 2003.

**APPENDIX 1 PASSENGER CARDS *continued***

OUTGOING CARD

<p><b>Outgoing passenger card • Australia</b></p> <p>PLEASE COMPLETE IN ENGLISH WITH A BLUE OR BLACK PEN</p> <p>▶ Family/surname  <input type="text"/></p> <p>▶ Given names  <input type="text"/></p> <p>▶ Passport number  <input type="text"/></p> <p>▶ Flight number or name of ship  <input type="text"/></p> <p>▶ Country where you will get off this flight  <input type="text"/></p> <p>▶ What is your usual occupation?  <input type="text"/></p> <p>▶ Nationality as shown on passport  <input type="text"/></p> <p>▶ Date of birth              Day    Month    Year  <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/></p>	<p>▶ PLEASE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AND ANSWER D OR E OR F</p> <table style="width:100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width:33%; vertical-align: top; padding: 5px;"> <p><b>D Visitor or temporary entrant departing</b> <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>▶ State where you spent most time</p> <table style="width:100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td>NSW <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Vic <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Qld <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>SA <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>WA <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Tas <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>NT <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>ACT <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">Other <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table> <p>▶ Country of Residence  <input type="text"/></p> </td> <td style="width:33%; vertical-align: top; padding: 5px;"> <p><b>E Australian resident departing temporarily</b> <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>▶ In which State do you live?</p> <table style="width:100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td>NSW <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Vic <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Qld <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>SA <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>WA <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Tas <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>NT <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>ACT <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Other <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table> <p>Years    Months    Days</p> <p>▶ Intended length of stay overseas  <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> OR <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/></p> <p>▶ Country where you will spend most time abroad  <input type="text"/></p> <p>▶ Main reason for overseas travel ( <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> one only):</p> <table style="width:100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td>Convention/conference <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>1</td> <td>Employment <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Business <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>2</td> <td>Education <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Visiting friends or relatives <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>3</td> <td>Exhibition <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Holiday <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>4</td> <td>Other <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>8</td> </tr> </table> </td> <td style="width:33%; vertical-align: top; padding: 5px;"> <p><b>F Australian resident departing permanently</b> <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>▶ In which State did you live?</p> <table style="width:100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td>NSW <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Vic <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Qld <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>SA <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>WA <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Tas <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>NT <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>ACT <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">Other <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table> <p>▶ What is your country of future residence? 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Outgoing passenger card used from July 2003.

## APPENDIX 2 DATA QUALITY ISSUES

### SCANNING AND IMAGING

The introduction of a new passenger card processing system from July 2001 has meant that information is now available on the frequency and impact of data item imputation. Much of this information has not been available previously. Additionally, the move to a new processing system has also given rise to new data quality issues directly associated with scanning and imaging.

### DEFECTIVE CARDS

There are a small number of unreadable or damaged passenger cards for each month. ABS receives a count of these cards from the Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs (DIMIA) by movement direction, box type and port of clearance. The information on these cards is then physically processed by the ABS and included in the estimates presented here.

### DURATION OF STAY

From July 1998 DIMIA are able to determine the actual length of stay for departing overseas visitors and arriving Australian residents which was previously collected from information on intended length of stay supplied on the arrival and departure card by the passenger. This new method had resulted in a change in data distribution with the number of passengers staying for one year exactly declining significantly when compared with movements prior to July 1998.

The introduction of the new passenger card processing system from July 2001 has shown further evidence of rounding to exactly one year in intended duration of stay/travel as reported by visitors arriving in Australia and Australian residents departing the country. To reflect the historical movement patterns, the records with a reported duration of exactly one year are allocated to short-term and long-term. For visitors, 75% of such records are allocated to short-term and 25% to long-term. The ratio is 67:33 for residents departing Australia.

### TRIPS AND MATCHING OF MOVEMENTS ON THE SECOND LEG OF TRAVEL

Each month there are records for long-term residents returning to Australia and long-term visitors departing Australia which could not be matched with DIMIA's Travel and Immigration Processing System (TRIPS) records. Records have been created directly from TRIPS for records that did not match with a passenger card and then added to the ABS processing system.

### NEW ZEALAND CITIZENS

Under the Trans-Tasman Agreement, New Zealand (NZ) citizens are not required to have a visa to travel to Australia. As a result, on arrival in Australia their visa documentation cannot be used to determine whether they are either a permanent migrant or a temporary visitor, or an Australian resident returning from New Zealand. DIMIA believes that a substantial proportion of holders of NZ passports tick Box A (migrating to Australia) each time they arrive in the country, causing an overcount of NZ migrants entering Australia.

The following edits were applied to correct the overcounting of NZ migrants:

#### *July 2001 to June 2002*

With the introduction of the new processing system from July 2001, DIMIA coded all NZ citizen arrivals who had ticked Box A and had been to Australia previously (based on immigration records) to resident returning (Box C). If these people were visitors previously, this recoding had the effect of incorrectly reducing the number of NZ migrants whilst at the same time incorrectly increasing the number of NZ citizen returning residents. This problem was overcome by moving the NZ citizens that have been changed by DIMIA from Box A to Box C back to Box A.

## APPENDIX 2 DATA QUALITY ISSUES *continued*

July 2002 onwards

From July 2002, DIMIA has introduced a new edit system to ensure accurate Permanent Arrivals of New Zealand citizens statistics. Where the person ticks Box A on his/her passenger card (first arrival as a migrant) the record is verified by checking previous entries and related passenger card records and if the person is previously recorded as a migrant or resident then they will be counted as returning residents. This will result in more accurate recording of New Zealand citizens who are migrating to Australia as against those who are residents returning.

NON-RESPONSE

### **A1** NON-RESPONSE RATES PRIOR TO IMPUTATION (a)—December 2003

<i>OAD Variables</i>	<i>Incoming</i>	<i>Outgoing</i>
	%	%
Citizenship (Nationality)	0.1	—
Country of Birth	0.5	0.6
Age (Date of birth)	—	—
Sex	—	—
Marital Status(b)	42.5	41.2
Category of travel	1.3	0.9
Permanent migrant		
Previous/future country of residence	23.6	16.1
Overseas visitor		
Intended/actual length of stay	3.4	1.7
Main reason for journey	5.9	..
Australian residents		
Actual/intended time away from Australia	1.4	5.9
Main reason for journey	..	4.3
Occupation(c)	6.2	4.8
Country of embarkment/disembarkment	2.7	2.5
Whether intend to live in Australia for next 12 months	24.5	..

(a) Non-response rates are unweighted.

(b) Not available for Australian or New Zealand citizens.

(c) Not available for short-term movements.

INTENDED LENGTH OF  
STAY/TIME AWAY FROM  
AUSTRALIA

Non-response rates are available for these data items from November 1998. For data prior to November 1998, imputation carried out as part of processing by DIMIA has prevented reliable estimation of non-response rates for these two data items.

MAIN REASON FOR JOURNEY

Before the introduction of the redesigned passenger card in July 1998, 5% of short-term visitor arrivals, on average, were recorded as having a reason for journey of 'Other' or 'Not Stated'. This percentage rose to 14% for July, 16% in August and 29% in September 1998 as a result of processing problems. These problems have now been addressed by DIMIA, with the percentage of 'Other' and 'Not Stated' dropping in October 1998 to 8% and 7% in November 1998.

From the January 1999 issue of this publication, published figures (table 3 in this publication) referencing these three months have been revised. The revised data were calculated by estimating the number of persons responding 'Other / Not Stated' using past trends for each country of citizenship and proportionally allocating any persons in excess of the estimated 'Other / Not Stated' total amongst the remaining categories. 'Not Stated' rates are now separately available from February 1999 onwards.

## APPENDIX 2 DATA QUALITY ISSUES *continued*

### STATE WHERE SPENT MOST TIME

For the months of August 1998, September 1998 and October 1998, data entry problems experienced by DIMIA caused an overstatement of the Northern Territory as the main state of stay with a corresponding understatement for the remaining states and territories. These numbers have returned in November 1998 to levels more comparable with previous years, with DIMIA indicating that they have instigated data quality procedures to address this issue.

From the January 1999 issue of this publication, published figures (table 7 in this publication) referencing these months have been revised. The revised data were calculated by estimating the number of persons indicating the Northern Territory as their main state of stay using past trends and proportionally allocating any persons in excess of these estimates amongst the remaining states and territories.

With the introduction of the new processing system from July 2001, DIMIA have provided the ABS with data on all missing values of state of stay and state of usual residence. These missing values are now imputed.

### DATA IMPUTATIONS

Data was imputed for non-response for state of stay/residence. For state of stay, non-responses were imputed at the category of traveller and state of clearance level. Non-response rates for state of stay are presented in the table below:

**A2** DISTRIBUTION OF NON-RESPONSE RATES FOR STATE OF STAY BY CATEGORY OF TRAVELLER(a)—December 2003

	<i>December</i>
<i>Category of traveller</i>	%
Permanent arrivals — settlers	3.7
Long-term residents returning	0.9
Long-term visitors arriving	3.3
Short-term residents returning	0.2
Short-term visitors arriving	5.3
Residents departing permanently	3.9
Long-term residents departing	3.1
Long-term visitors departing	7.4
Short-term residents departing	1.8
Short-term visitors departing	6.3

(a) Non-response rates are weighted.

Non-responses for country of stay and country of usual residence were imputed in two stages. In the first stage, records with country of stay/residence missing were set to country of disembarkation/embarkation if a response was available. In the second stage, for remaining records where country of stay/residence was missing, values were imputed at the category of traveller, reason for journey and country of citizenship level based on responses to other cards within each subgroup. Accordingly, the level of records with data for country of stay/residence not stated has been minimised.

### *Change in approach to non-response state of stay for long-term visitor departures*

A new procedure applied before imputation of non-response state of stay for long-term visitor departures. The procedure has two aspects. First, it detects non-reponse of state of stay for long-term visitor departures and then looks to the other outgoing passenger card boxes (box E and F on the outgoing passenger card) for a state of stay response. If no response is found, the procedure then looks for a response on the arrival card (which can be obtained by matching the arrival and departure card via a unique person identifier). Second, in the case of a correction of the box marked by a passenger (eg. a visitor marks a resident box) the state of stay will be transferred with the record or if it is still a non-response, the arrivals card will be sourced. If both these steps fail to identify a state of stay, the record then proceeds to imputation.



## APPENDIX 2 DATA QUALITY ISSUES *continued*

Country of stay

Table A3 below presents the percentage of records with country of stay/residence missing as supplied by DIMIA and prior to imputation.

### **A3** COUNTRY OF STAY/RESIDENCE NON-RESPONSE RATES BY PASSENGER CARD BOX TYPE (a)—December 2003

	<i>December</i>
<i>Box type</i>	%
A: Migrating permanently to Australia	23.6
B: Visitor or temporary entrant	2.8
C: Resident returning to Australia	5.8
D: Visitor of temporary entrant departing	9.9
E: Australian resident departing temporarily	1.8
F: Australian resident departing permanently	16.1

(a) As on initial data supplied by DIMIA.

Table A4 shows the non-response rates for country of stay/residence following the application of the first stage of imputation.

### **A4** COUNTRY OF STAY/RESIDENCE NON-RESPONSE RATES BY CATEGORY OF TRAVELLER (a) (b)—December 2003

	<i>December</i>
<i>Category of traveller</i>	%
Permanent arrivals — settlers	4.2
Long-term residents returning	0.8
Long-term visitors arriving	0.3
Short-term residents returning	0.9
Short-term visitors arriving	0.2
Residents departing permanently	0.9
Long-term residents departing	0.1
Long-term visitors departing	0.6
Short-term residents departing	0.2
Short-term visitors departing	0.2

(a) Following imputation based on country of disembarkation/embarkation.

(b) Non-response rates are weighted.

SEPTEMBER 1998  
PROCESSING

A problem was experienced in the processing of OAD data for movement dates between 6 September 1998 and 16 September 1998, following the introduction of changes to DIMIA's input processing system. This problem may affect in the order of 10% of all September records used in estimation and result in incorrect details for citizenship, date of birth, sex and country of birth.

PERMANENT ARRIVALS  
DURING 1998

The number of permanent arrivals during July to December 1999 were revised in October 2000, as advised by DIMIA.

SEPTEMBER 1999  
PROCESSING

September 1999 overseas arrivals and departures data are revised for movements from, and to, China (excl. SARs and Taiwan) and Hong Kong (SAR of China) in respect of three variables: country of birth, country of citizenship and country of residence/stay. Changes to 'country of birth' and 'country of citizenship' have been made from data supplied by DIMIA. Changes to 'country of residence/stay' have been made by assuming the average proportion of country of birth to country of residence/stay for migrants from China (excl. SARs and Taiwan) and Hong Kong (SAR of China) in September 1995 to September 1998.

## APPENDIX 2 DATA QUALITY ISSUES *continued*

### SEPTEMBER QUARTER 2000 PROCESSING

A processing error has been identified which affected the distribution of short-term resident departures by reason for journey for the months of August and September 2000. Affected data was re-processed, and a revised copy of table 3 for the September quarter 2000 was reissued in the supplement October to December 2000 issue of this publication.

### CHANGE TO PROCESSING OF INTENDED LENGTH OF STAY

There is evidence to suggest that when completing the intended length of stay question on the incoming passenger card (Box B), some passengers are entering their arrival/departure date or their birth date rather than their intended length of stay.

From August 2003 a rule has been applied to the data processing system stating that if all three elements are complete (years, months and days), then the intended length of stay is to be coded to a non-response. The ABS currently assigns 'not stated' duration as a short-term movement, however a review of this procedure will be undertaken in the near future.

This procedure changes the prior data processing system which reads only the years from the field on the passenger cards. The previous data processing system could be adding to overestimation of the number of long-term visitor arrivals. This new procedure is to be implemented from September 2003.

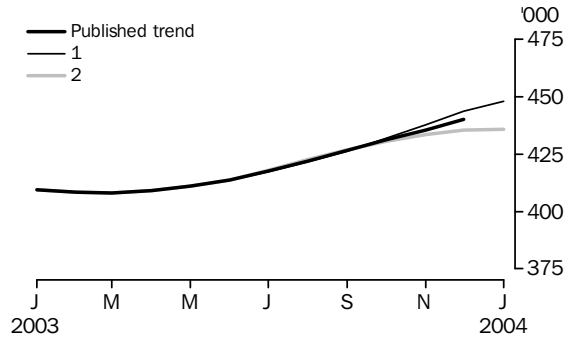
## TECHNICAL NOTE TREND REVISIONS

### EFFECT OF NEW SEASONALLY ADJUSTED ESTIMATES ON TREND ESTIMATES

**1** The most recent trend estimates for short-term visitor arrivals and short-term resident departures, are likely to be revised when the next month's seasonally adjusted estimates become available. To assist readers of this publication in analysing short-term movement trends, the approximate effect of two possible scenarios on the previous trend estimate of short-term visitor arrivals and resident departures are presented below.

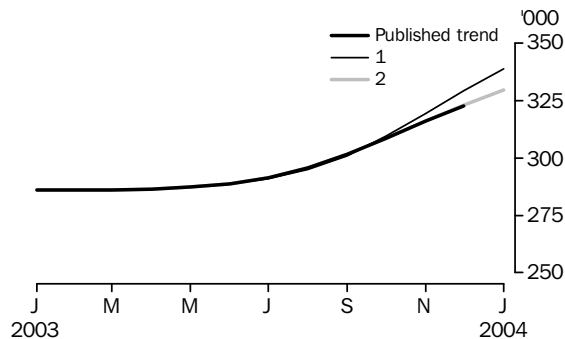
#### Visitor arrivals

- 1 The January seasonally adjusted estimate of visitor arrivals is 3.2% higher than December.
- 2 The January seasonally adjusted estimate of visitor arrivals is 3.2% lower than December.



#### Resident departures

- 1 The January seasonally adjusted estimate of resident departures is 3.0% higher than December.
- 2 The January seasonally adjusted estimate of resident departures is 3.0% lower than December.



**2** The percentage changes of 3.2 for visitor arrivals and 3.0 for resident departures were chosen because they represent the average absolute monthly percentage change for visitor arrivals and resident departures over the last ten years, respectively.

**3** Under concurrent seasonal adjustment, the most recent seasonally adjusted and trend estimates are likely to be revised when original estimates for subsequent months become available. The trend revision is a combined result of the revision of the seasonally adjusted estimates and the revision derived from the use of asymmetric moving averages as future data become available. ABS research shows that about 75% of the total revision to the trend estimate at the current end of the time series is due to the use of different asymmetric moving averages when the original estimate for the next time period becomes available. To assess the reliability of the trend estimate at the current end, the "what-if" chart presents trend estimates under two different scenarios for the next time period. The chart shows only the impact due to the changes of the asymmetric moving averages and does not include the unknown impact of revision to seasonal factor estimates that would arise when the original estimate for the next time period becomes available.

## STANDARD ERRORS

### RELIABILITY OF ESTIMATES

Estimates based on a sample are subject to sampling variability that is, they may differ from those that would be obtained from full enumeration.

The sampling error associated with any estimate can be estimated from the sample results and one measure so derived is the standard error. Given an estimate and the standard error on that estimate, there are about two chances in three that the sample estimate will differ by less than one standard error from the figure that would have been obtained from full enumeration, and about nineteen chances in twenty that the difference will be less than two standard errors. The relative standard error is the standard error on the estimate expressed as a percentage of the estimate.

It would be impractical to publish estimates of standard errors for all figures in individual tables. However, the following table of standard errors and relative standard errors gives an indication of the magnitude of the sampling error associated with any estimate of a particular size for short-term and total movement.

### APPROXIMATE STANDARD ERROR ON ESTIMATES FOR STRATIFIED SAMPLE

<i>Estimated number of movements</i>	SHORT-TERM ARRIVAL OR DEPARTURE OF AUSTRALIAN RESIDENT		SHORT-TERM ARRIVAL OR DEPARTURE OF OVERSEAS VISITOR		TOTAL ARRIVAL OR DEPARTURE	
	<i>Standard error</i>	<i>Relative standard error</i>	<i>Standard error</i>	<i>Relative standard error</i>	<i>Standard error</i>	<i>Relative standard error</i>
	no.	%	no.	%	no.	%
10000	550	6	490	5	550	6
5000	450	9	330	7	410	8
2000	280	14	230	11	250	13
1000	200	20	150	15	170	17
750	180	24	140	19	150	20
500	130	26	110	22	125	25
400	120	30	100	25	115	29
300	110	36	84	28	97	32
200	90	45	70	35	80	40
100	63	63	49	49	56	56

An example of the use of this table is as follows. If the estimate of the number of Australian resident departures for short-term visits abroad is 500, then the standard error on this estimate is 130 i.e. there are two chances in three that the actual number of Australian resident departures for short-term visits abroad will lie between 370 and 630 and nineteen chances in twenty that it will lie between 240 and 760.

The larger the size of an estimate the smaller the relative standard error. For any estimate of greater than 10,000 the relative standard error will be less than 6%.

The estimate of the difference between an estimate in two different periods or between different estimates from the same period is also subject to sampling error. The standard error on the difference between any two estimates which are subject to sampling error can be approximated by using the larger standard error of the estimates inflated by a factor of 1.4.

## STANDARD ERRORS *continued*

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### RELIABILITY OF ESTIMATES *continued*

An example of the use of this procedure is as follows. Assume the estimates of the number of arrivals to Australia from Taiwan during January 2002 and January 2003 are 1,500 and 750 respectively. The difference between the 2002 and 2003 figures is 750 and the standard errors on these estimates are approximately 190 and 140. The standard error on the difference is approximately 266 ( $1.4 \times 190$ ), and there are nineteen chances in twenty that the estimate of the difference between the two years will lie between 218 and 1,282.

### ESTIMATED NUMBER OF MOVEMENTS, GREATER THAN 10,000

Currently, standard errors are provided for estimates up to 10,000 (see page 28). The ABS is reviewing the Standard Error table with the view of providing standard errors for movements greater than 10,000. Standard errors should be considered when comparing movements in the levels of estimates for different time periods, or in comparing estimates of various characteristics.

## GLOSSARY

<b>Australian resident</b>	Australian residence is self-defined as reported by travellers when completing Incoming and Outgoing Passenger Cards.
<b>Category of movement</b>	<p>Overseas Arrivals and Departures are classified according to length of stay (in Australia or overseas), recorded in months and days by travellers on passenger cards. There are three main categories of movement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ permanent movements</li><li>■ long-term movements</li><li>■ short-term movements.</li></ul> <p>A significant number of travellers (i.e. overseas visitors to Australia on arrival and Australian residents going abroad) state exactly 12 months or one year as their intended period of stay. Many of them stay for less than that period and on their departure from, or return to, Australia are therefore classified as short-term. Accordingly in an attempt 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.</p>
<b>Country of residence</b>	Country of residence refers to the country in which travellers regard themselves as living or as last having lived.
<b>Intended length of stay</b>	On arrival in Australia, all overseas visitors are asked to state their 'Intended length of stay in Australia'. On departure from Australia, all Australian residents are asked to state their 'Intended length of stay abroad'.
<b>Long-term arrivals</b>	<p>Long-term arrivals comprise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Overseas visitors who intend to stay in Australia for 12 months or more (but not permanently); and</li><li>■ Australian residents returning after an absence of 12 months or more overseas.</li></ul>
<b>Long-term departures</b>	<p>Long-term departures comprise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Australian residents who intend to stay abroad for 12 months or more (but not permanently); and</li><li>■ Overseas visitors departing who stayed 12 months or more in Australia.</li></ul>
<b>Main destination</b>	Australian residents travelling overseas are asked on departure for the name of the country in which they intend to spend most time.
<b>Main reason for journey</b>	<p>On arrival in, or departure from, Australia all overseas visitors and Australian residents are asked to state their purpose of journey. From September 1994, all statistics relating to main reason for journey have been published using the following categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ convention/conference</li><li>■ business</li><li>■ visiting friends/relatives</li><li>■ holiday</li><li>■ employment</li><li>■ education</li><li>■ other</li></ul> <p>In tabulations of data collected before September 1994, the 'Other' category includes 'In transit' and the 'Holiday' category includes both 'Student vacation' and 'Accompanying business visitor'.</p>
<b>Overseas Arrivals and Departures (OAD)</b>	Overseas Arrivals and Departures refer to the arrival or departure of Australian residents or overseas visitors, through Australian airports (or sea ports), which have been recorded on Incoming or Outgoing Passenger Cards. Statistics on Overseas Arrivals and Departures relate to the number of movements of travellers rather than the number of travellers (i.e. the multiple movements of individual persons during a given reference period are all counted).

## GLOSSARY *continued*

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<b>Permanent arrivals</b>	<p>Permanent arrivals (settlers) comprise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ travellers who hold migrant visas (regardless of stated intended period of stay);</li><li>■ New Zealand citizens who indicate an intention to settle; and</li><li>■ those who are otherwise eligible to settle (e.g. overseas born children of Australian citizens).</li></ul> <p>This definition of settlers is used by the Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs (DIMIA). Prior to 1985 the definition of settlers used by the ABS was the stated intention of the traveller only. Numerically the effect of the change in definition is insignificant. The change was made to avoid the confusion caused by minor differences between data on settlers published separately by the ABS and DIMIA.</p>
<b>Permanent departures</b>	<p>Permanent departures are Australian residents (including former settlers) who on departure state that they intend to settle permanently in another country.</p>
<b>Short-term arrivals</b>	<p>Short-term arrivals comprise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ overseas visitors whose intended stay in Australia is less than 12 months; and</li><li>■ Australian residents returning after an absence of less than 12 months overseas.</li></ul>
<b>Short-term departure</b>	<p>Short-term departures comprise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Australian residents who intend to stay abroad for less than 12 months; and</li><li>■ overseas visitors departing who stayed less than 12 months in Australia.</li></ul>
<b>State where spent most time</b>	<p>Overseas visitors are asked on departure for the name of the state or territory in which they spent the most time. This differs from 'state of clearance' which is available on request.</p>

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