**Australia**

Australia's migration and humanitarian programs combined comprised 199,000 individual entries in 2011-12, an increase of 8.9% with respect to the 2010-11 figure. The migration programme was used by around 185,000 individuals, the majority of whom were granted visas under the skill stream (126,000, half of whom were already in Australia) and most of the rest (59,000) under the family stream (28% already onshore). The top two source countries for permanent migrants through the migration programme were India (29,000) and China (25,500), and seven of the top 10 source countries in 2011-12 are located in Asia. The United Kingdom (25,000) fell to third place as an origin country of permanent migrants to Australia.

The number of temporary migrants also increased sharply in 2011-12. Almost 680,000 temporary migrants entered Australia, mostly international students (37%) and working holiday makers (33%). Inflows of international students increased by 1% to 253,000 visa grants in 2011-12, the first rise since the peak in 2008-09. In 2011, there were more than 550,000 international students enrolled in Australian education institutions (more than three-quarters from within Asia).

In addition, inflows of New Zealanders under the Trans-Tasman agreement reached over 44,000 in 2011-12, an increase of 28% with respect to the previous year and equivalent to almost 1% of the New Zealand population.

After experiencing a mild downturn during the global financial crisis of 2008-09, the Australian economy continued its recovery into 2011-12. Rising global demand for commodities has led to regional skilled labour shortages. A temporary migration initiative to help address the skill needs of the resources sector was agreed in May 2012 (“Enterprise Migration Agreement”). So far, this particular agreement will result in the sponsorship of over 1,700 workers in an iron ore project in western Australia’s Pilbara region.

In 2011-12, there were almost 7,400 refugee status determination requests for asylum seekers who arrived in Australia by boat, a rise of 43% over the previous year. Their number has grown substantially since 2006-07, from only 23 requests to a yearly average of over 5,700 requests in the last three years. An expert panel produced a report in August 2012 with advice and recommendations to prevent asylum seekers from risking their lives on dangerous boat journeys to Australia; the report’s recommendations are being implemented by the government. The changes provide incentives for asylum seekers to look for protection through a managed regional system. Unauthorised maritime arrivals will now have the same legal status independently from where they enter Australian territory, removing incentives to take greater risks by seeking to reach the Australian mainland to avoid being subject to regional processing arrangements. At the same time, the number of places for resettlement will rise, to 20,000 in Australia’s 2012-13 humanitarian programme, 45% more than the previous year.

A 2011 review of Australia’s Student visa programme produced 41 recommendations. Implementation of these recommendations started in November 2011, and more than half have since been implemented, including streamlined visa processing for university enrolment, more flexible work conditions and a Genuine Temporary Entry requirement.

In December 2011, the Australian Government announced that it would reform the current employer-sanctions regime for businesses that allow, or refer for work, non-citizens without the required lawful entitlement. The new laws are one component of a broader reformed employer sanctions framework, focused on preventing and deterring illegal work and hiring practices.

In July 2012, Australia implemented a two-step process for their skilled migration programme (named “SkillSelect”), designed to give the Australian Government greater control over the composition and quality of skilled migration. Migrants are required to submit an Expression of Interest, and only afterwards are some invited to apply for a visa. Within the SkillSelect scheme, a Significant Investor visa has been introduced for investors with more than AUD 5 million to invest in the Australian economy. The Significant Investor visa was launched in November 2012. In addition, the number of different Skilled Migration visa categories was reduced from 27 to 11.

Furthermore, the Seasonal Worker Program established in July 2012 will make 12,000 visa places available over the next four years for seasonal workers in certain Pacific Island countries to work in low-skilled jobs for up to seven months in a 12-month period. Australia also announced it will begin talks on establishing working holiday agreements with an additional six countries.

For further information
5. COUNTRY NOTES: RECENT CHANGES IN MIGRATION MOVEMENTS AND POLICIES

Recent trends in migrant flows and stocks

AUSTRALIA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Migration flows (foreigners)</th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>Average Level ('000)</th>
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<td>Inflows</td>
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<td>9.3</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Migration inflows (foreigners) by type</th>
<th>Thousands</th>
<th>% distribution</th>
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<tr>
<td>Permit based statistics (standardised)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Work</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family (incl. accompanying family)</td>
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<td>58.0 51.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Humanitarian</td>
<td>14.6 14.0</td>
<td>7.0 6.4</td>
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<td>Free movements</td>
<td>24.4 34.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Others</td>
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<th>Temporary migration</th>
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<td>International students</td>
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<td>176.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trainees</td>
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<td>Working holiday makers</td>
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<td>Seasonal workers</td>
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<td>0.4 0.1</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Intra-company transfers</td>
<td>.. 4.3</td>
<td>5.4 4.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other temporary workers</td>
<td>71.6 91.1</td>
<td>114.5 114.8</td>
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<tr>
<th>Inflows of asylum seekers</th>
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<th>2011</th>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
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<td>0.4 0.5</td>
<td>0.3 0.2</td>
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<th>Components of population growth</th>
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<th>2010</th>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
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<td>11.5 13.6</td>
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<td>Natural increase</td>
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<td>Net migration</td>
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<tr>
<th>Stocks of immigrants</th>
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<th>2005</th>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>23.9 24.2</td>
<td>26.5 26.7</td>
<td>23.6 25.6</td>
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<td>Percentage of the foreign population</td>
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<tr>
<td>Employment/population ratio</td>
<td>.. 79.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Real GDP</td>
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<td>2.1 2.3</td>
<td>3.3 2.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>GDP/capita (level in USD)</td>
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<td>0.6 0.8</td>
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<td>Employment (level in thousands)</td>
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<td>2.3 2.0</td>
<td>2.1 2.3</td>
<td>11 488</td>
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Notes and sources are at the end of the chapter.