

**OVERSEAS ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES, AUSTRALIA
MARCH 1994**

MAIN FEATURES

Arrivals of overseas visitors for short-term visits

The trend estimate for arrivals of overseas visitors in March 1994 was 2.9 per cent higher than in February 1994. The trend is continuing to show signs of strong growth, with a fall of more than 23.1 per cent in the seasonally adjusted figure for April 1994 required to reverse the trend.

The actual number of overseas visitors to enter Australia in the nine months from July 1993 to March 1994 was 2.47 million, 15 per cent more than in the same period the previous year (2.14 million).

Most visitors to Australia arriving between July 1993 and March 1994 reported that they were on holiday (63%). Eighteen per cent reported that they were visiting relatives, while 9 per cent travelled for business reasons. There was little change to the reasons that overseas visitors travelled to Australia from the equivalent nine month period to March 1993.

Departures of Australian residents for short-term trips abroad

The trend estimate for March 1994 of Australian residents departing for short-term trips abroad was 1.4 per cent higher than the estimate for February 1994. While the trend is unlikely to record a fall in April 1994 (requiring a decrease of more than 10.5% in the seasonally adjusted estimate), the current growth rate may slow.

The number of short-term departures abroad by Australian residents during the nine months to March 1994 was 1.71 million, unchanged from the estimate recorded in the nine months from July 1992 to March 1993.

For the period from July 1993 to March 1994, the main destination countries for Australian residents travelling abroad were New Zealand (16%), the United States of America (13%), the United Kingdom (10%) and Indonesia (9%).

Permanent movement

The total number of settler arrivals in Australia in the period from July 1993 to March 1994 was 51,410, a 16 per cent decrease on the number recorded for July 1992 to March 1993 (61,170). Most settlers in the nine month period to March 1994 arrived from the United Kingdom (13%), New Zealand (11%) and Viet Nam (8%).

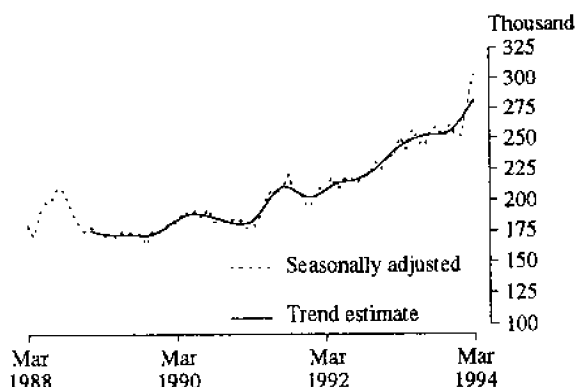
There were 2,470 permanent departures of Australian residents in March 1994, bringing the total number of departures for the nine months to March 1994 to 20,770, a slight decrease from the nine months to March 1993 (21,080).

Intended length of stay of arriving overseas visitors and departing Australian residents

Seventy-nine per cent of overseas visitors, who arrived during the nine month period July 1993 to March 1994, stated an intention to stay less than one month. This is similar to previous years, with 79 per cent of arrivals during the year ending 30 June 1993, and 77 per cent during the year ending 30 June 1992, intending to stay less than one month. In the nine month period July 1993 to March 1994, 29 per cent of overseas visitors intended to stay under one week and a further 30 per cent between one and two weeks.

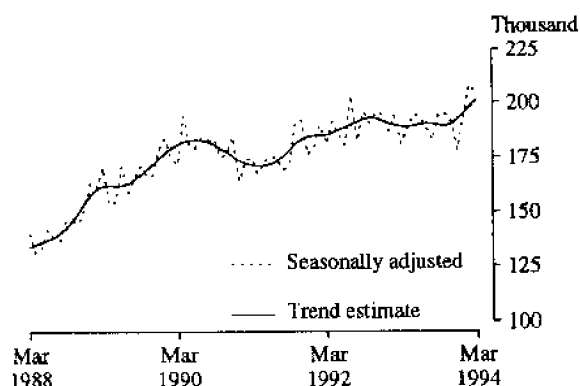
Over one million (1,093,200 or 64%) Australian residents who departed during the nine month period July 1993 to March 1994 stated an intention of being overseas under one month, with 71 per cent stating an intended absence of between one week and two months. For the twelve month period to June 1993, 70 per cent of departing Australian residents stated an intention to stay between one week and two months, and for the equivalent period to June 1992 the percentage was 69 per cent. Only 18 per cent of Australian residents who departed between July 1993 and March 1994 stated that they intended to be away for more than two months.

SHORT-TERM VISITOR ARRIVALS (a)



(a) Refer to paragraph 24 of the Explanatory Notes.

SHORT-TERM RESIDENT DEPARTURES



INQUIRIES

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

TABLE 1. TOTAL MOVEMENT — ARRIVALS: CATEGORY OF MOVEMENT

Period	Permanent arrivals Settlers	Long-term arrivals		Total permanent and long-term arrivals	Short-term arrivals (a)				Total arrivals (a)
		Australian residents	Overseas visitors		Australian residents	Overseas visitors (Actual)	Overseas visitors (Seasonally adjusted b)	Overseas visitors (Trend estimate c)	
<i>Year ended 31 December —</i>									
1991	116,650	61,260	59,330	237,230	2,009,700	2,370,400	..	..	4,617,300
1992	94,250	66,160	60,050	220,450	2,166,300	2,603,300	..	..	4,990,100
1993	65,680	73,430	58,830	197,930	2,215,200	2,996,200	..	..	5,409,300
<i>Year ended 30 June —</i>									
1991	121,690	59,060	55,650	236,400	2,054,200	2,227,400	..	..	4,518,000
1992	107,390	62,920	63,860	234,170	2,072,400	2,519,700	..	..	4,826,300
1993	76,330	69,590	57,840	203,770	2,218,500	2,785,600	..	..	5,207,800
<i>1993 —</i>									
January	5,460	6,990	9,170	21,620	273,800	242,800	237,200	235,100	538,200
February	5,020	5,260	13,450	23,730	161,800	245,500	235,500	240,000	431,000
March	5,440	5,220	3,290	13,940	143,100	257,900	251,300	244,000	415,000
April	4,980	4,710	3,790	13,470	165,800	226,300	241,800	247,100	405,600
May	5,160	4,090	2,600	11,850	154,100	213,400	257,600	249,200	379,400
June	5,030	5,210	2,890	13,130	159,900	204,600	247,800	250,800	377,700
July	5,880	6,520	7,130	19,520	227,800	244,600	243,800	252,200	491,900
August	5,950	5,760	3,520	15,230	182,500	239,900	257,200	253,100	437,700
September	5,700	5,470	3,410	14,580	200,500	224,000	259,500	253,200	439,200
October	5,500	5,890	3,740	15,120	252,400	267,200	251,000	253,700	534,700
November	5,780	6,950	2,900	15,640	162,900	285,900	260,900	255,800	464,400
December	5,790	11,380	2,940	20,100	130,400	344,000	252,600	260,000	494,500
<i>1994 —</i>									
January	5,670	7,350	10,420	23,440	275,000	250,500	251,800	266,200	549,000
February	5,390	5,850	13,510	24,760	159,600	304,300	276,600	273,700	488,600
March	5,750	5,780	3,750	15,280	158,200	307,400	303,200	281,700	480,900

(a) Figures for short-term movement are based on a sample and are subject to sampling error. See paragraph 14 of the Explanatory Notes for more detail. (b) See paragraphs 18 to 21 of the Explanatory Notes. (c) See paragraphs 22 to 24 of the Explanatory Notes.

TABLE 2. TOTAL MOVEMENT — DEPARTURES: CATEGORY OF MOVEMENT

Period	Permanent departures	Long-term departures		Total permanent and long-term departures	Short-term departures (a)				Total departures (a)
		Australian residents	Overseas visitors		Australian residents (Actual)	Australian residents (Seasonally adjusted b)	Overseas visitors (Trend estimate c)	Overseas visitors	
<i>Year ended 31 December —</i>									
1991	29,900	66,130	47,680	143,710	2,099,400	..	..	2,350,800	4,593,900
1992	28,140	66,980	48,540	143,660	2,276,300	..	..	2,533,500	4,953,400
1993	28,070	64,300	48,050	140,430	2,267,100	..	..	2,931,000	5,338,500
<i>Year ended 30 June —</i>									
1991	31,130	66,880	43,630	141,640	2,115,500	..	..	2,193,700	4,450,800
1992	29,120	67,190	47,970	144,280	2,173,500	..	..	2,473,700	4,791,400
1993	27,910	65,450	47,740	141,100	2,299,500	..	..	2,730,700	5,171,300
<i>1993 —</i>									
January	2,770	8,830	4,320	15,920	147,600	187,000	190,500	300,800	464,400
February	2,320	5,580	3,320	11,230	140,800	194,000	189,600	230,000	382,000
March	2,580	5,740	3,320	11,640	171,900	180,900	189,000	256,100	439,600
April	2,520	5,470	3,140	11,120	189,900	188,100	189,000	241,700	442,700
May	2,390	4,920	2,810	10,120	185,100	195,000	189,300	236,100	431,300
June	1,920	4,480	3,740	10,140	218,400	193,000	190,000	200,300	428,900
July	2,330	5,280	4,040	11,650	207,100	188,700	190,600	203,900	422,600
August	2,460	6,000	3,310	11,770	178,800	182,500	190,300	258,500	449,100
September	2,010	4,440	3,120	9,570	228,800	195,000	189,500	212,300	450,600
October	1,970	4,190	2,600	8,770	176,900	194,900	189,300	242,700	428,400
November	2,050	4,200	4,970	11,220	170,300	191,300	190,300	279,900	461,500
December	2,750	5,170	9,360	17,280	251,500	178,300	192,500	268,800	537,500
<i>1994 —</i>									
January	2,530	8,430	3,690	14,650	149,900	194,400	195,300	327,400	491,900
February	2,200	5,860	3,430	11,480	150,300	208,200	198,500	279,100	440,900
March	2,470	5,610	3,550	11,630	192,000	203,900	201,200	302,200	505,800

(a) Figures for short-term movement are based on a sample and are subject to sampling error. See paragraph 14 of the Explanatory Notes for more detail. (b) See paragraphs 18 to 21 of the Explanatory Notes. (c) See paragraphs 22 to 24 of the Explanatory Notes.

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

Country of residence	Year ended		Quarter ended		July to		Month of	
	30 June	1993	31 March	1994	March	1994	1993	1994
OCEANIA & ANTARCTICA —								
Fiji	17,400	16,700	4,600	4,400	12,900	13,200	1,800	1,300
New Caledonia	17,300	17,800	7,000	8,500	14,600	16,600	900	1,300
New Zealand	459,200	480,500	90,700	90,100	355,500	373,600	35,400	37,700
Papua New Guinea	35,100	39,300	9,500	10,600	30,000	32,200	2,100	2,900
Other	18,300	19,700	4,700	5,800	15,300	17,600	1,400	2,100
<i>Total</i>	<i>547,300</i>	<i>574,100</i>	<i>116,500</i>	<i>119,300</i>	<i>428,200</i>	<i>453,300</i>	<i>41,600</i>	<i>45,300</i>
EUROPE & THE FORMER USSR —								
Austria	10,300	11,600	3,200	4,400	9,700	12,400	900	1,300
Belgium	4,200	4,500	1,000	1,500	3,700	4,900	300	500
Denmark	10,400	10,800	3,400	4,400	9,000	10,700	1,000	1,400
Finland	5,200	4,800	1,200	1,700	4,100	4,400	300	600
Former USSR & Baltic States	4,500	4,500	1,000	1,900	3,200	4,500	400	500
France	23,500	28,100	7,100	8,100	22,900	26,800	2,000	2,500
Germany, Fed Rep	85,300	96,800	29,400	38,800	77,800	95,900	11,000	13,800
Greece	6,100	6,200	1,500	1,900	4,900	5,900	400	700
Ireland	9,400	9,600	2,900	3,900	7,700	10,100	1,300	1,500
Italy	25,800	27,400	6,000	8,800	23,300	30,300	1,900	3,400
Netherlands	22,500	24,600	6,900	8,600	20,800	25,500	2,000	2,500
Norway	4,200	4,500	1,400	1,700	3,800	4,300	400	700
Sweden	20,200	17,800	5,100	6,400	15,200	16,300	1,500	2,400
Switzerland	29,300	28,800	8,600	10,300	24,800	28,300	2,400	3,400
United Kingdom	276,500	295,600	95,100	100,300	239,900	259,800	38,100	35,800
Other	18,400	18,500	4,600	6,800	15,400	19,800	1,500	2,400
<i>Total</i>	<i>555,900</i>	<i>594,300</i>	<i>178,300</i>	<i>209,600</i>	<i>486,100</i>	<i>559,900</i>	<i>65,600</i>	<i>73,600</i>
MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA —								
Israel	4,800	5,200	1,500	1,600	4,000	4,500	600	600
Other	11,600	13,300	3,400	3,800	10,500	13,100	1,500	1,500
<i>Total</i>	<i>16,400</i>	<i>18,400</i>	<i>4,900</i>	<i>5,500</i>	<i>14,600</i>	<i>17,600</i>	<i>2,100</i>	<i>2,100</i>
SOUTHEAST ASIA —								
Indonesia	39,500	56,300	16,300	26,200	42,200	67,300	7,800	14,300
Malaysia	52,600	69,800	18,800	23,000	50,800	65,500	6,700	8,600
Philippines	16,100	17,700	4,100	4,900	11,600	12,600	1,400	2,100
Singapore	93,600	138,500	28,800	34,400	101,100	123,200	10,100	12,400
Thailand	28,100	40,400	7,900	12,900	26,100	37,200	3,100	4,500
Other	7,800	9,300	2,600	2,700	7,300	7,300	1,100	1,200
<i>Total</i>	<i>237,700</i>	<i>332,100</i>	<i>78,400</i>	<i>104,100</i>	<i>239,200</i>	<i>313,100</i>	<i>30,100</i>	<i>43,100</i>
NORTHEAST ASIA —								
China	18,200	19,500	4,700	5,700	14,400	18,200	1,600	2,100
Hong Kong	70,300	83,400	25,500	29,500	62,500	75,100	7,100	9,100
Japan	602,500	651,600	178,500	191,400	499,700	531,800	57,900	64,400
Korea	28,900	44,600	16,800	32,900	34,500	68,100	3,500	8,300
Taiwan	52,900	85,000	35,000	45,100	67,500	101,400	9,100	15,500
Other	900	1,100	300	700	700	1,400	100	100
<i>Total</i>	<i>773,700</i>	<i>885,100</i>	<i>260,800</i>	<i>305,300</i>	<i>679,300</i>	<i>796,000</i>	<i>79,200</i>	<i>99,400</i>
SOUTHERN ASIA —								
India	9,900	9,600	2,300	2,500	6,600	7,100	800	700
Sri Lanka	4,200	3,600	1,000	900	2,800	2,800	300	300
Other	2,800	2,200	600	800	1,700	2,100	200	200
<i>Total</i>	<i>17,000</i>	<i>15,500</i>	<i>3,900</i>	<i>4,300</i>	<i>11,100</i>	<i>12,000</i>	<i>1,300</i>	<i>1,300</i>
THE AMERICAS —								
Brazil	2,400	2,700	700	1,000	2,100	2,300	200	300
Canada	53,000	49,300	15,100	16,700	40,400	43,400	4,900	6,000
United States of America (c)	283,200	270,600	76,300	81,400	207,800	223,600	28,500	31,100
Other	9,200	10,100	2,900	3,700	7,800	9,100	1,100	1,400
<i>Total</i>	<i>347,600</i>	<i>332,700</i>	<i>95,000</i>	<i>102,800</i>	<i>258,200</i>	<i>278,400</i>	<i>34,700</i>	<i>38,800</i>
AFRICA (excluding North Africa) —								
South Africa	11,400	19,700	4,600	6,200	13,900	22,100	2,000	2,400
Zimbabwe	2,700	2,400	500	600	1,800	2,100	200	200
Other	5,000	5,500	1,600	2,900	4,400	8,100	500	1,200
<i>Total</i>	<i>19,100</i>	<i>27,600</i>	<i>6,700</i>	<i>9,600</i>	<i>20,100</i>	<i>32,400</i>	<i>2,700</i>	<i>3,700</i>
Total (d)	2,519,700	2,785,600	746,200	862,200	2,141,300	2,468,000	257,900	307,400

(a) Figures for short-term movement are based on a sample and are subject to sampling error. See paragraph 14 of the Explanatory Notes for more detail. (b) See paragraphs 9 to 12 of the Explanatory Notes. (c) Includes America undefined. (d) Includes other and not stated.

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

Country of intended stay	Year ended		Quarter ended		July to		Month of		
	30 June	1993	31 March	1993r (c)	March	1993	1994r (c)	1993	1994
OCEANIA & ANTARCTICA —									
Fiji	84,800	88,100	16,200	15,300	68,600	58,000	6,200	6,600	
New Caledonia	17,300	15,400	3,100	3,500	11,600	12,900	800	1,300	
New Zealand	330,000	345,500	86,300	93,100	271,200	279,600	30,100	34,200	
Norfolk Island	17,100	17,500	4,100	4,800	13,700	12,300	1,600	1,700	
Papua New Guinea	37,900	35,200	7,400	8,500	25,400	26,800	2,700	3,300	
Vanuatu	19,400	23,000	4,900	5,400	18,000	17,500	1,800	2,000	
Other	23,800	25,900	4,700	4,800	19,600	20,300	1,600	2,000	
Total	530,400	550,600	126,700	135,500	428,000	427,400	44,800	51,000	
EUROPE & THE FORMER USSR —									
Austria	6,800	7,100	1,200	1,200	5,200	4,600	400	500	
France	24,700	25,400	3,800	4,300	16,700	19,300	1,200	2,000	
Germany, Fed Rep	31,000	34,100	6,500	5,500	23,400	22,200	2,900	2,100	
Greece	29,700	30,000	4,400	3,900	18,800	18,200	2,800	1,900	
Ireland	11,000	12,200	1,200	1,900	9,000	9,100	600	900	
Italy	42,600	42,400	5,200	6,500	27,700	29,000	2,600	3,100	
Netherlands	15,700	15,100	2,400	2,400	10,300	9,000	1,000	1,300	
Poland	6,100	6,500	600	600	3,800	3,500	300	300	
Spain	7,800	10,300	1,200	1,100	8,400	4,700	600	600	
Sweden	4,500	4,700	800	800	3,200	2,600	300	300	
Switzerland	8,800	9,300	2,000	2,200	7,200	6,700	800	1,000	
United Kingdom	227,400	240,400	37,400	39,300	162,400	165,000	18,700	17,800	
Other	43,800	47,700	6,400	7,300	30,500	32,100	3,200	3,900	
Total	459,600	485,200	73,000	77,000	326,600	325,900	35,400	35,600	
MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA —									
Egypt	5,200	6,800	1,400	1,200	5,400	3,600	500	300	
Israel	6,800	8,200	1,600	2,000	5,600	6,400	1,100	1,100	
Lebanon	13,600	12,800	2,200	2,100	8,100	8,200	1,200	1,100	
Turkey	6,800	8,300	1,200	1,500	4,300	5,300	900	1,000	
Other	9,400	10,300	1,900	3,200	7,200	9,400	700	1,500	
Total	41,800	46,500	8,400	10,000	30,600	32,900	4,300	4,900	
SOUTHEAST ASIA —									
Indonesia	175,500	197,300	39,600	46,700	148,800	157,400	12,100	13,200	
Malaysia	74,000	81,900	18,600	19,400	63,800	66,300	5,600	7,900	
Philippines	39,700	41,700	9,400	10,600	31,800	33,200	2,900	4,200	
Singapore	103,100	102,300	20,600	20,700	74,400	70,100	7,400	8,100	
Thailand	69,100	73,200	15,900	14,500	56,300	53,800	4,800	5,400	
Other	19,800	30,700	8,500	10,900	24,000	29,900	2,200	3,300	
Total	481,100	527,000	112,500	122,700	399,100	410,800	34,900	42,100	
NORTHEAST ASIA —									
China	16,100	23,900	4,900	6,700	16,700	21,200	2,200	2,600	
Hong Kong	132,600	141,300	30,000	29,700	108,500	98,900	11,600	13,600	
Japan	47,200	47,100	9,700	9,600	35,500	33,900	3,700	3,700	
Korea	9,300	12,400	2,600	2,500	9,700	10,100	1,000	900	
Taiwan	22,000	25,500	5,300	6,700	18,900	21,300	2,200	2,100	
Other	800	600	100	200	400	900	—	100	
Total	227,900	250,800	52,600	55,500	189,700	186,300	20,700	22,900	
SOUTHERN ASIA —									
India	19,500	18,900	4,900	7,300	15,900	22,700	1,600	2,100	
Sri Lanka	9,000	9,200	1,400	1,800	7,900	7,700	400	1,000	
Other	7,500	8,800	2,100	3,000	7,400	7,900	600	1,100	
Total	36,100	36,900	8,400	12,100	31,300	38,300	2,500	4,200	
THE AMERICAS —									
Canada	31,700	30,000	3,700	5,900	20,500	24,300	1,300	2,300	
United States of America (c)	322,400	324,200	63,800	60,200	242,100	214,400	24,100	24,500	
Other	16,300	16,300	4,000	3,900	13,500	14,200	1,400	1,400	
Total	370,400	370,500	71,500	70,000	276,100	252,900	26,800	28,200	
AFRICA (excluding North Africa) —									
South Africa	8,100	8,700	2,500	3,700	6,100	11,700	700	1,200	
Other	13,700	18,600	3,400	3,000	14,900	12,200	1,200	1,000	
Total	21,800	27,200	5,900	6,600	21,000	23,900	1,900	2,200	
Total (d)	2,173,500	2,299,500	460,300	492,100	1,706,100	1,705,600	171,900	192,000	

(a) Figures for short-term movement are based on a sample and are subject to sampling error. See paragraph 14 of the Explanatory Notes for more detail. (b) See paragraphs 9 to 13 of the Explanatory Notes. (c) Includes America undefined. (d) Includes other and not stated.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

This publication contains statistics of persons arriving in, and departing from, Australia in summary form for the latest available month, together with two or three year time series for the major characteristics of travellers. More detailed statistics can be made available, on request (see paragraph 28).

Source of the statistics

2. Persons arriving in, or departing from, Australia are required to complete prescribed questionnaires in the form of Incoming and Outgoing Passenger cards. These cards provide information to the Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs for administrative purposes and serve as the source of statistics of overseas arrivals and departures. In accordance with the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*, information relating to individuals, individual flights or ships and individual carriers, which is contained in these cards or other documents, is treated as confidential by the ABS.

Scope

3. The statistics in this publication 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 each counted separately). The statistics exclude the movements of operational air and ships' crew, of transit passengers who pass through Australia but are not cleared for entry, and of passengers on pleasure cruises commencing and finishing in Australia aboard ships not then engaged on regular voyages.

Definitions**Category of movement**

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

Permanent movement

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

Long-term movement

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

Short-term movement

7. Movements of travellers whose intended or actual length of stay is less than twelve months are classified as short-term, except those who on arrival hold migrant visas (see paragraph 5 above).

8. A large number of travellers state exactly 12 months or one year as their intended period of stay. Many of these stay for less than that period and on their departure from, or return to, Australia should therefore be classified as short-term. To maintain consistency between arrivals

and departures, movements of travellers who report their actual or intended period of stay as being one year exactly are randomly allocated to long-term or short-term, in proportion to the number of movements of travellers who report their actual length of stay as up to one month more, or one month less, than one year.

Country

9. The classification of countries in this publication is based on 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* (1269.0).

10. Political developments in Europe and the Former USSR have resulted in a number of changes to the ASCSS. These changes are detailed in Revision 1.02 of the ASCSS. Further developments in Europe and Africa have affected some of the categories in this publication and are detailed in Revision 1.03 of the ASCSS.

11. Statistics on country of birth, residence or citizenship have certain limitations because of inadequate reporting on passenger cards. For instance, it is not possible to identify separately England, Scotland and Wales. Similarly 'Korea' includes both the Republic of Korea and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. United States of America includes 'America (undefined)'.

12. Country of residence refers to the country in which travellers regard themselves as living or as last having lived.

Country of intended stay for short-term travellers

13. Australian residents travelling overseas are asked on departure for the name of the country in which they intend to spend most time.

Estimation method

14. 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.

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

Corrections and imputations

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

17. Errors of this kind differ from discrepancies arising from the fact that certain information reflects the

travellers intentions, at the time the passenger cards were completed. These intentions are of course subject to change. Particularly affected is the distinction between permanent and temporary movement and in the latter case, length of intended stay, country in which most time will be spent and purpose of journey.

Seasonal adjustment

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

19. Seasonal adjustment may be carried out by various methods and the results may vary slightly according to the procedure adopted. Accordingly, seasonally adjusted statistics should not be regarded as in any way definitive. In interpreting particular seasonally adjusted statistics it is important to bear in mind the methods by which they have been derived and the limitations to which the methods used are subject. The adjustment procedure used for the short-term visitor arrivals and resident departures data is an aggregative adjustment. Prior to the July 1989 issue these data were adjusted at the category total level only (for visitor arrivals and resident departures separately). The aggregative method adjusts the major components separately (in this instance, the main countries of each category). The adjusted category total is obtained by summing the adjusted components. For more detail, contact the Supervisor, Time Series Analysis, ABS on (06) 252 6345.

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

21. The seasonally adjusted series can, however, be smoothed to reduce the impact of the irregular component in the adjusted series. There are a number of ways of accomplishing this, depending on the intended uses of the smoothed series. If importance is attached to measuring the underlying change in the most recent periods, moving averages employing appropriate weighting patterns should be adopted; the choice of averaging technique will determine in part the degree of smoothness of the derived series. The longer the term of the moving average the longer is the time series affected by revisions resulting from more recent data. In order to ensure that the underlying trend-cycle of a series is reflected in the trend estimate series, the degree of smoothness alone cannot always be used as the sole criterion in determining which moving average is appropriate.

Trend estimates

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

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

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

Related publications

25. Users may also wish to refer to the following ABS publications:

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

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

Australian Demographic Statistics (3101.0)—issued quarterly

26. Related statistics are also published by the Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs and the Department of Transport and Communications.

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

Additional statistics available

28. In some cases, the ABS can make available information which is not published. This information may be made available in one or more of the following forms: microfiche, photocopy, data tape, floppy disk, computer printout, clerically-extracted tabulations. Generally, a charge is made for providing unpublished information. A full list of unpublished Overseas Arrival and Departure tabulations is available on request.

Symbols and other usages

- nil or rounded to zero
- . . not applicable
- p preliminary
- n.a. not available
- n.f.d. not further defined

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For more information ...

The ABS publishes a wide range of statistics and other information on Australia's economic and social conditions. Details of what is available in various publications and other products can be found in the *ABS Catalogue of Publications and Products* available at all ABS Offices (see below for contact details).

Information Consultancy Service

Information tailored to special needs of clients can be obtained from the Information Consultancy Service available at ABS Offices (see Information Inquiries below for contact details).

National Dial-a-Statistic Line

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DISCOVERY (Key *656#): The ABS intends discontinuing its statistical information service on DISCOVERY. Please contact Peter Davidson (Phone 06 252 6684) to discuss possible alternatives for acquiring statistics or if you wish to comment on this proposal. For details on electronic data services available, contact Information Services in any of the ABS Offices (see Information Inquiries below for contact details).

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Printed by Alan Law, Commonwealth Government Printer, Canberra

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2340100003944

ISSN 1031-0495