

# Postwar Migration Facts and Figures

## Postwar Migration

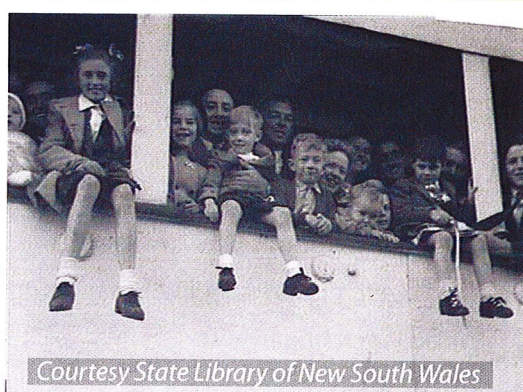
Since 1945, about 7 million people have come to Australia as new settlers. Over 800 000 have been accepted as displaced persons and refugees under the Humanitarian Programme. In that time Australia's population has increased from 7 million in 1945 to 23.5 million in 2014.

The large-scale Migration Programme began at the end of World War II. Migration was encouraged to rapidly increase Australia's population. The Australian Government had agreements with Britain, some other European countries, and the International Refugee Organisation to help find displaced persons from war-torn Europe to settle in Australia.

Since 1950, about a million migrants have arrived in Australia each decade. The numbers are:

- 1945 to 1960            1.6 million
- 1960 to 1970            1.3 million
- 1970 to 1980            960 000
- 1980 to 1990            1.1 million
- 1990 to 2000            900 000
- 2000 to 2010            1.2 million

The highest number of settlers to arrive in a single year was 185 099 in 1969–70. The lowest number in one year was 52 752 in 1975–76.



Courtesy State Library of New South Wales

*These migrants arrived from Britain in 1948. They are about to disembark from the ship that brought them to Sydney.*

About a quarter of people living in Australia were born overseas.

In 2014, New Zealand was the main source of people coming to Australia, followed by India and China.

## Major Source Countries for Migration

July 2012 to June 2013 settler arrivals, by country of birth

Country of birth	Arrivals	% Variation*
New Zealand	27 015	-10.3
India	18 395	27.8
China	18 041	3.3
United Kingdom	11 720	-29.8
Philippines	6704	-3.6
South Africa	4585	-27.3
Malaysia	3762	-3.2
Vietnam	3709	-4.8
Sri Lanka	3670	-15.6

\*compared to July 2011– June 2012

Table courtesy of Department of Immigration and Border Protection.

