SUBMISSION TO JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON MIGRATION

Inquiry into the value of skilled migration to Australia

December 2025

SUBMISSION TO JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON MIGRATION
Inquiry into the value of skilled migration to Australia
December 2025

PURPOSE

This submission outlines key ABS data sources that can inform analysis on the value of skilled migration in Australia. These sources offer robust, integrated datasets that support evidence-based policy development and evaluation.

DATA SOURCES

Personal Income in Australia, 2022-23 | Australian Bureau of Statistics

- Includes annual State/Territory and National data on migrant income earners by visa, taxable income, and income distribution from 2017-18 to 2022-23.
- Covers permanent and temporary migrants via integration with the Linked Employer-Employee Dataset (LEED).
- Indicators available include the number of migrant earners, total taxable income, income sources (employment, business, investment), year of arrival, age, sex, state/territory, median and mean income.
- Allows comparison with the general Australian taxpaying population.
- Only includes the personal income tax paying population.

Jobs in Australia, 2022-23 | Australian Bureau of Statistics

- Includes annual data on jobs, job holders, and employers.
- Covers permanent and temporary migrants via integration with the Linked Employer-Employee Dataset (LEED).
- Indicators available include the number of migrant jobs held, median employment income, job duration, industry, business size, year of arrival, age, sex, state/territory.
- Allows comparison with the general Australian taxpaying population.
- Only includes the personal income tax paying population.

Data for both collections are compiled from the Linked Employer-Employee Dataset (LEED), which is built using Australian Taxation Office (ATO) administrative data linked to ABS Business Longitudinal Analysis Data Environment (BLADE) data.

The linked LEED provides the foundational dataset linking tax and business data for employment analysis. Its scope is 18–23 million job records and 14–17 million person records annually since 2011–12; migrant data integrated using Department of Home Affairs datasets (visa grants, applications).

Migrant settlement outcomes, 2025 | Australian Bureau of Statistics

The Migrant Settlement Outcomes (MSO) publication relates only to permanent migrants (including Skilled). Data used in this publication is sourced from:

- Person Level Integrated Data Asset (PLIDA),
- Census of Population and Housing (Census), and

SUBMISSION TO JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON MIGRATION
Inquiry into the value of skilled migration to Australia
December 2025

- [Australian Census and Migrants Integrated Dataset (ACMID)](#).

PLIDA data used in MSO includes:

- ATO Client Register, Income Tax Returns and Payment Summaries
- Data Over Multiple Individual Occurrences
- Higher Education Information Dataset
- Medicare Consumer Directory
- Medicare Benefits Schedule.

Permanent migrant data uses the Department of Home Affairs Settlement Database (SDB) which contains information about people in Australia who were granted permanent visas.

MSO only covers people on the Settlement Database who:

- were granted a permanent visa
- had an arrival date of 1 January 2000 or later
- were recorded in the Estimated Resident Population (ERP).

MSO does not cover people on temporary visas during a reference period, people in very remote areas, and may contain linkage errors and reporting in the analytical administrative datasets.

Person Level Integrated Data Asset (PLIDA)

PLIDA combines information on health, education, government payments, income and taxation, employment, and population demographics (including the Census) over time. It provides whole-of-life insights about various population groups in Australia, such as the use of services like healthcare, education, health services and employment.

Migrants/migration data from the Department of Home Affairs is available in PLIDA and consists of:

- Information on permanent and certain temporary migrants to Australia who arrived from 1 January 2000, including temporary migrants arriving on certain temporary visa subclasses that are likely to lead to the granting of a permanent visa subclass.
- Adult Migrant English Program data, from 2003.
- Net Overseas Migration (NOM) Traveller data, from 2004.
- Visa information & Citizenship grants, from 2000.

PLIDA covers nearly all Australian residents, though has limited coverage of recently arrived people, some temporary migrants, and very remote populations.

Permanent Migrants in Australia

- Offers a five-yearly snapshot of social and economic characteristics of permanent migrants.

- Includes a variety of topics such as education and qualifications, health and disability, household and dwelling characteristics, SEIFA indicators.

Data is compiled from the 2021 Australian Census and Migrants Integrated Dataset (ACMID). This dataset links data from the 2021 Census of Population and Housing (Census) with the Department of Home Affairs Settlement Database. The Settlement Database contains information about people in Australia who were granted permanent visas.

ACMID can produce estimates disaggregated by permanent visa categories, other socio-economic and demographic variables, at fine geographic levels. However, there is some under coverage of very remote populations.

[Temporary visa holders in Australia, 2021 | Australian Bureau of Statistics](#)

- Offers a five-yearly snapshot of social and economic characteristics of temporary migrants.
- Includes a variety of topics such as education and qualifications, health and disability, household and dwelling characteristics, SEIFA indicators.

Data is compiled from the 2021 Australian Census and Temporary Entrants Integrated Dataset (ACTEID). It contains information about selected types of temporary visa holders (including Temporary Skilled) who were present in Australia on Census night (and completed the Census). This dataset is produced by linking data from the Census of Population and Housing (Census) with temporary visa holder data from the Department of Home Affairs.

ACTEID can produce estimates disaggregated by temporary visa categories, other socio-economic and demographic variables, at fine geographic levels. However, there is some under coverage of very remote populations.

ACTEID is a point in time snapshot of temporary migrants and cannot be directly compared to ACMID or the general Australian population.

[Overseas Migration](#)

- Provides the official count for Net Overseas Migration (NOM) for a financial year.
- NOM is the net gain or loss of population through international migration to and from Australia.
- The publication includes NOM arrival and departures by Country of Birth, Visa, Age, Sex, State and Territory.
- The next update of the 2024-2025 financial year will be published on 19 December 2025.
- Quarterly net overseas migration data is also available in [TableBuilder: Net overseas migration.](#) This product is updated quarterly.

ABS statistics on overseas migration are mainly compiled using information from Department of Home Affairs sources. All overseas movement records are stored in Department of Home Affairs' Travel and Immigration Processing System (TRIPS).