

**CHINA-BORN MIGRATION TO SOUTH AUSTRALIA:
POPULATION AND LABOUR FORCE IMPLICATIONS**

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ACCI	Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI)
AGPS	Australian Government Publishing Service
ALFPR	Aggregate Labour Force Participation Rate (ALFPR)
ASCL	Australian Standard Classification of Languages
ASCO	The Australian Standard Classification of Occupations
BTRE	Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Economics
DCITA	Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts
DECS	Department of Education and Children's Services
DEIR	Department of Employment and Industrial Relations
DEST	Department of Education, Science and Training
DFEEST	Department of Further Education, Employment, Science and Technology
DIAC	Department of Immigration and Citizenship
DIMIA	Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs
DOTARS	Department of Transport and Regional Services
DTED	Department of Trade and Economic Development
Fed Rep	Federal Republic
ICT	INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY
IOM	International Organization for Migration
LGA	Local Government Area
LOTE	Language other than English
LSIA	Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Australia
MESC	Main English Speaking Countries
NCIYF	The National Council for the International Year of the Family NESC migrants
NESB	Non-English-Speaking-Background
NMSU	National Migrant Statistics Unit
OECD	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development

OSB	Overseas born
OSS	Occupational Shares System
PC	Productivity Commission
PRC	People's Republic of China
SACC	Standard Australian Classification of Countries
SAR	Special Administrative Region
SCORD	Standing Committee on Regional Development for the Regional Development Council
SD	Statistical Division
SDAS	Skilled Designated Area Sponsored
SOL	Skills Occupation List
SSD	Statistical Subdivision
SSRM	State-Specific and Regional Migration
TFR	Total Fertility Rate
VET	Vocational Education and Training

ABSTRACT

Chinese migration to Australia has a long history and had an important influence on Australian development. However, the last decade has seen an unprecedented increase not only in the scale of migration from China to Australia but also in its impact on the Australian economy and society. This impact however has remained little investigated and the present study seeks to examine one important dimension – the effect of Chinese migration on the labour market. In order to do this, it focuses on immigration from China to South Australia, a state which has been lagging economically and, until recently, was experiencing low levels of immigration and population growth compared to Australia as a whole.

The study focuses on the period from 2003-2008 which not only saw a rapid increase in immigration from China to Australia but was a period in which the South Australia government initiated a population policy in order to increase economic and population growth. The study examines the changes in the scale, nature and composition of Chinese immigration to Australia and South Australia focusing on both permanent settlement and temporary movement.

The major part of this study examines the labour market impact of Chinese immigration by analysing the participation of Chinese immigrants in South Australia's labour force. It considers levels of employment as well as whether the jobs taken up by China-born immigrants match their qualifications and experience. Their experience is compared to that of other migrant groups and the Australia-born population. The study utilizes data from the 2006 Census on Population and Housing collected by the Australian Bureau of Statistics as well as the Department of Immigration and Citizenship data.

The final part of the study considers the impact of recent policy on China-born immigration to Australia and South Australia and draws out the policy implications of the findings. It assesses how successful immigration from China has been in meeting skill and labour shortages and in contributing to the development objectives of the South Australian government. It makes suggestions for immigration and

settlement policy to maximize the benefits of China-born migration to South Australia and to the migrants themselves.

DECLARATION

This thesis contains no material that has been accepted for the award of any degree or diploma in any university or other tertiary institution and, to the best of my knowledge and belief, contains no material previously published or written by another person, except where due reference has been made in text of the thesis.

I give consent to this copy of my thesis, when deposited in the University Library, being made available for photocopying and loan.

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