



OECD Demographics Survey

Australia

Executive Summary by Levente Kardkovács



Factsheet

Fertility rate (births/woman)	Net migration rate (entering-leaving/1000)	Family policies	Attitude towards immigration
1.70 (10th in the OECD)	5.38 (24th in the OECD)	Lacking	Neutral

Immigration Policies

After the abolition of the “White Australia” policy in 1973, the country exchanged ethnicity based entry requirements for skill-based ones. Consequently Australia welcomed large numbers of immigrants escaping conflicts and hardships from all over the world (Southeast Asia, South- and Central America, Balkans, etc.). This has fuelled a large economic boom at the end of the 20th century. In 2011 an estimated ¼-th of the population was born overseas. However, these numbers mask an aversion to non-skilled migrants, as the country has one of the most harsh detention and deportation policies in the world.

Potential allies: Japan, Italy, Canada, Israel

Family Policies

The peak of pro-natalist policies in Australia (such as a one time payment at the birth of a child, the so called “baby bonus”) was in the mid 2000s. After the 2008 financial crisis most of the policies aimed at improving the fertility rate have been rolled back or diminished. While the fertility rate did increase during the active period of the policies, clear causation could not be established and policymakers were left wondering if they are worth the enormous costs. No pro-family policies have been recently pursued, as the country’s population increase has been sustained by immigration.

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