



Immigration Report

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Introduction

Abstract

Methodology

The Education Level of Australian Residents

In the past few decades, Australia has acquired many skilled migrants, contributing substantially towards the local economy. Hawthorne (2010) states that by 2007, two thirds of them were former international students recruited in Australia rather than offshore applicants. This transition has also been named as the “two-step-migration” by Hawthorne (2010).

This section will analyse the education levels of current residents of Australia.

The dataset provides information on the education levels of Australian residents and their duration of stay within the country.

The residents of Australia have been categorized based on their duration of stay within the country as

- native born
- less than 5 years
- between 5 - 10 years
- more than 10 years
- unknown

The level of education has been categorized using a broad three-category classification as

- low
- medium
- high
- unknown

Figure 1 shows the breakdown of Australian residents based on their duration of stay in Australia and their level of education; the higher counts of residents are represented by light blue and the lower number of residents are represented by dark blue. The dataset contains a few unknowns about the Australian resident, some on the level of education and some on the duration of stay, which is also represented in figure 1.

It's obvious that the highest counts of Australian residents are natives, and is interesting that a majority of them have a medium level of education, followed by natives having a higher level of education

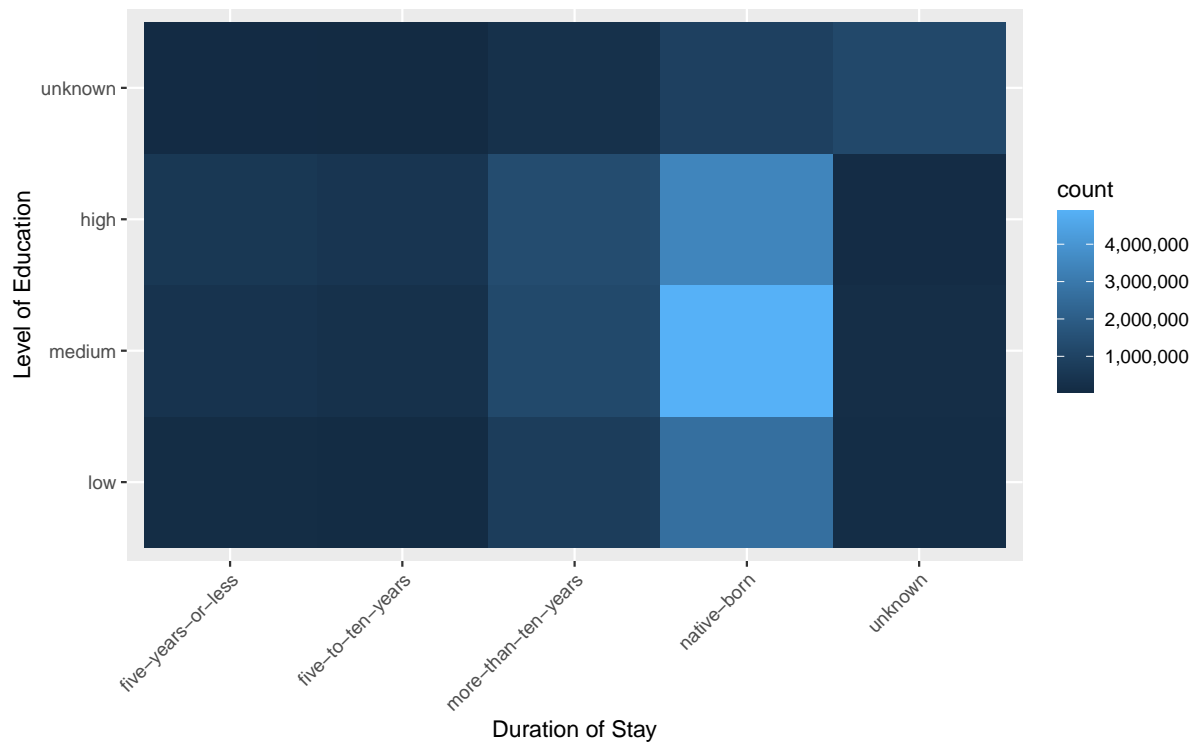


Figure 1: Breakdown of Australian residents based on their level of Education and duration of stay in Australia

and only a few of them having a low level of education. It's also interesting how the numbers of Australian residents who have been in the country for over ten years, shows higher counts of numbers than those who have been in the country for a lower duration of time. It can also be seen that in all three categories of non-native born Australians, most have received a high level of education.

Table 1: Percentages of Australian residents with different levels of education over each category of duration of stay

| Duration of stay | High level of education (%) | Medium level of education (%) | Low level of education (%) | Unknown level of education (%) |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| five-to-ten-years | 54% | 31% | 9% | 5% |
| five-years-or-less | 50% | 34% | 10% | 6% |
| more-than-ten-years | 37% | 34% | 21% | 8% |
| native-born | 29% | 41% | 22% | 8% |

A breakdown of Australian residents with different durations of stay, into their level of education is represented in table 1. It can be seen that the majority of individuals who have obtained residency in Australia recently have a high level of education while only a few of them have a low level of education. A significant increase in percentages of individuals with higher levels of education obtaining residency in Australia can also be seen from table 1. Most native-Australians (41%) have a medium level

of education, while others with shorter durations of stay in Australia have much higher levels of education.

Green, Kler, and Leeves (2007) states that the immigration policies in Australia has placed an increased focus in skill-based selection criteria, and has resulted in overeducation of recently arrived Australian immigrants. This can be attributed to the most of the recent immigrants having a high level of education as represented by figure 1 and table 1.

References

- Green, C, P Kler, and G Leeves (2007). Immigrant overeducation: Evidence from recent arrivals to Australia. *Economics of Education Review* **26**(4), 420–432.
- Hawthorne, L (2010). How valuable is “two-step migration”? Labor market outcomes for international student migrants to Australia. *Asian and Pacific Migration Journal* **19**(1), 5–36.