

Measuring International Migration – continual improvements in the Australian context



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Informing Australia's important decisions



Outline

- ▶ What is Net Overseas Migration?
- ▶ History of NOM methods
- ▶ Preliminary NOM methods
- ▶ Outgoing Passenger Card Discontinued

What is Net Overseas Migration (NOM)?

NOM: Net gain or loss of population through migration to Australia and from Australia.

- ▶ As measured over a given period of time:

$$\text{NOM} = \text{Migrant Arrivals} - \text{Migrant departures}$$

Scope: who is included?

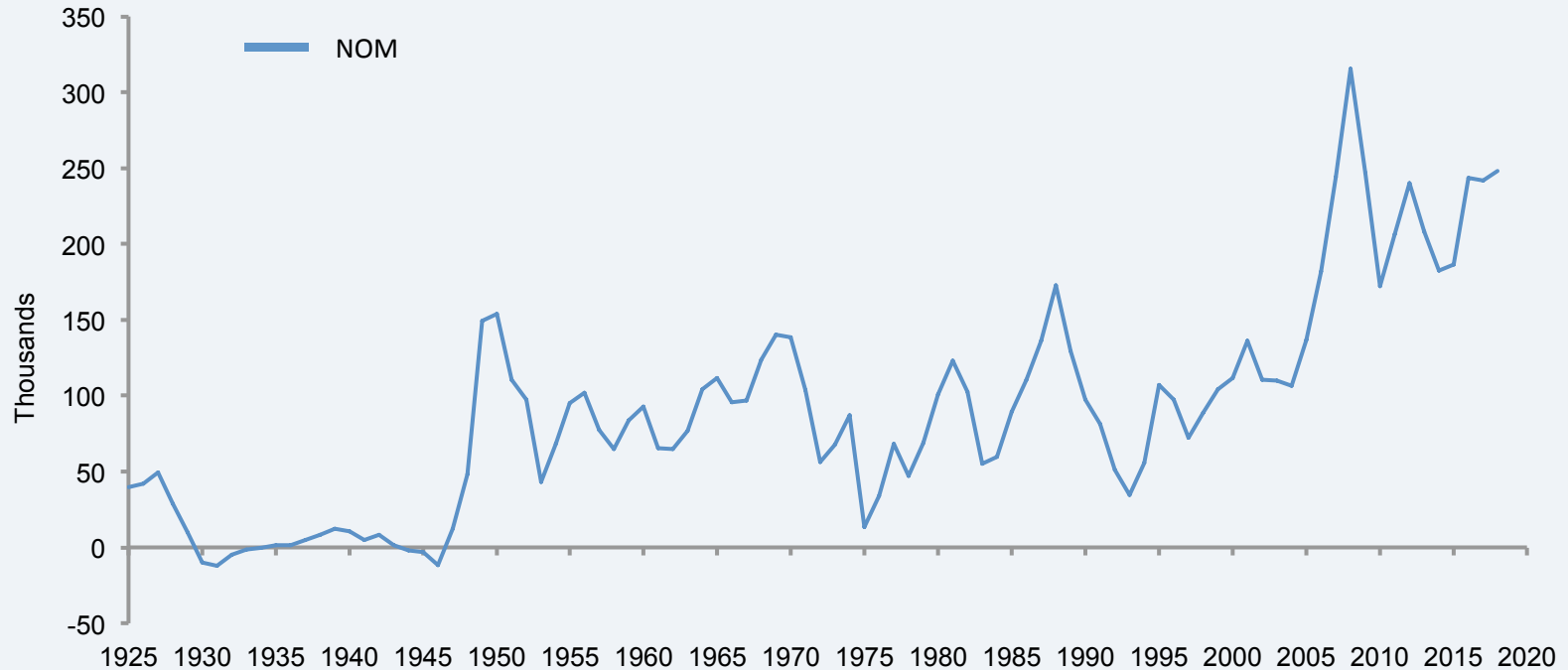
- ▶ The UN Migration Agency describes an international migrant as:

Any person who changes his or her country of usual residence, irrespective of the reason for migration or legal status.

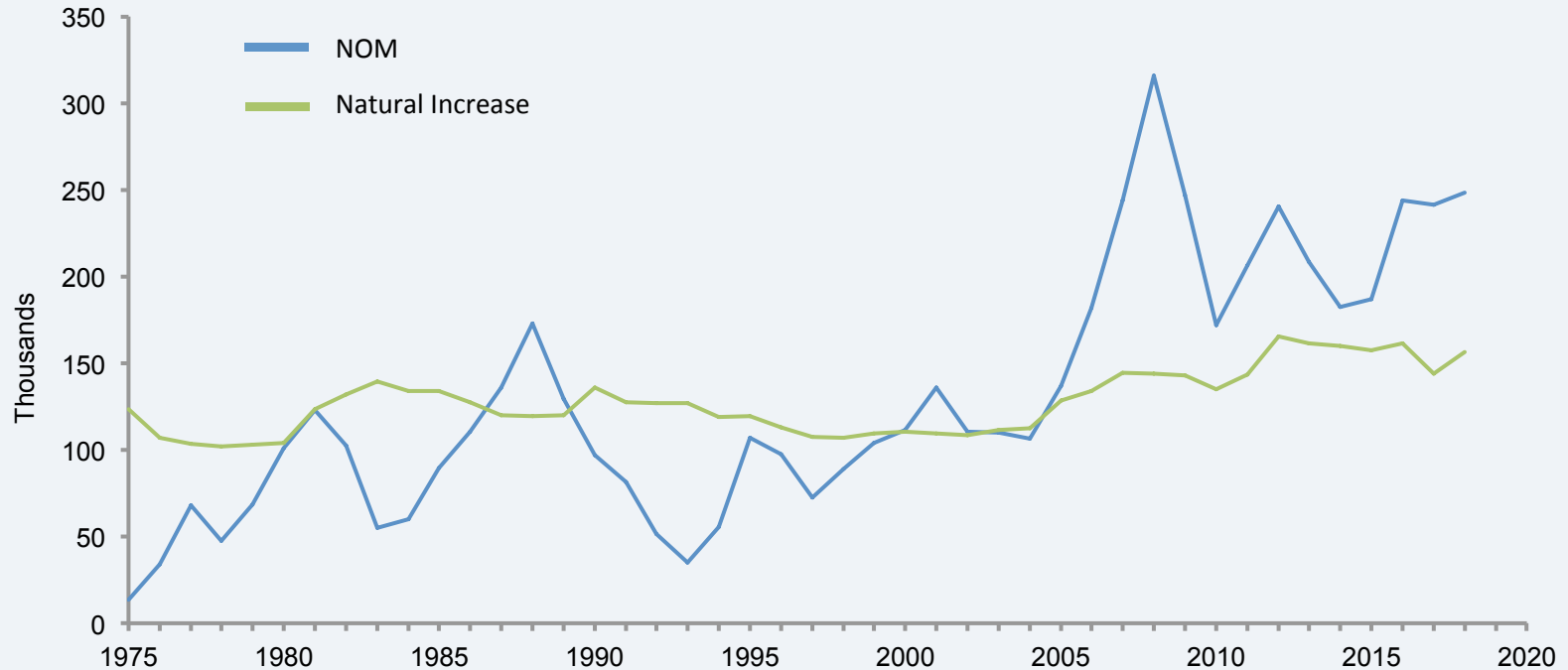
Scope: who is included?

- ▶ For NOM a usual resident is regarded as:
Any person residing in Australia for a period of 12 months or more.
- ▶ NOM & Estimated Resident Population (ERP) include:
All people who usually live in Australia regardless of nationality, citizenship or legal status.

Historical NOM Series – Australia, 1925 to 2018



Components of population change – Australia, 1975 to 2018



A Brief History of NOM

1925 to 1976:

- ▶ Count of all international border movements
- ▶ $\text{NOM} = \text{All Arrivals} - \text{All Departures}$
- ▶ Net only, no breakdown of migration by arrivals and departures
- ▶ Population present

A Brief History of NOM

1976 to 2001:

NOM = Permanent and long-term arrivals
– permanent and long-term departures
+ category jumping adjustment

A Brief History of NOM

- ▶ Permanent and Long-term movements defined by durations **self declared** by traveller as **12 months or greater**
- ▶ Category jumping is estimated to adjust NOM for travellers' **incorrect self declarations**
- ▶ Method better aligned with concept of usual residence for ERP

A Brief History of NOM

▶ 2001 to 2006:

NOM = Permanent and long-term arrivals

– Permanent and long-term departures

+ Migration Adjustment (actual duration)

A Brief History of NOM

- ▶ 2001 to 2006:
NOM = Permanent and long-term arrivals
– Permanent and long-term departures
+ Migration Adjustment (actual duration)
- ▶ 1998 – ability to build traveller history and calculate **actual** durations

Migration Adjustment

- ▶ Migration adjustment based on actual durations
- ▶ Required **continuous 12 month duration**
- ▶ Partial implementation of a “12/12 month rule”

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Initial category of movement	Original estimate	Migration adjustment	
	no.	no.	%
Long-term movement			
Visitor arrivals	80 265	-55 132	68.7
Resident arrivals	26 052
Visitor departures	-22 968
Resident departures	-28 964	14 412	49.8

A Brief History of NOM

Main limitations of permanent and long-term method

- ▶ Migration adjustments not applied to all categories of travel
- ▶ Continuous stay of 12 months required to meet residency requirement
- ▶ Still partially based on counts of overseas movements rather than travellers

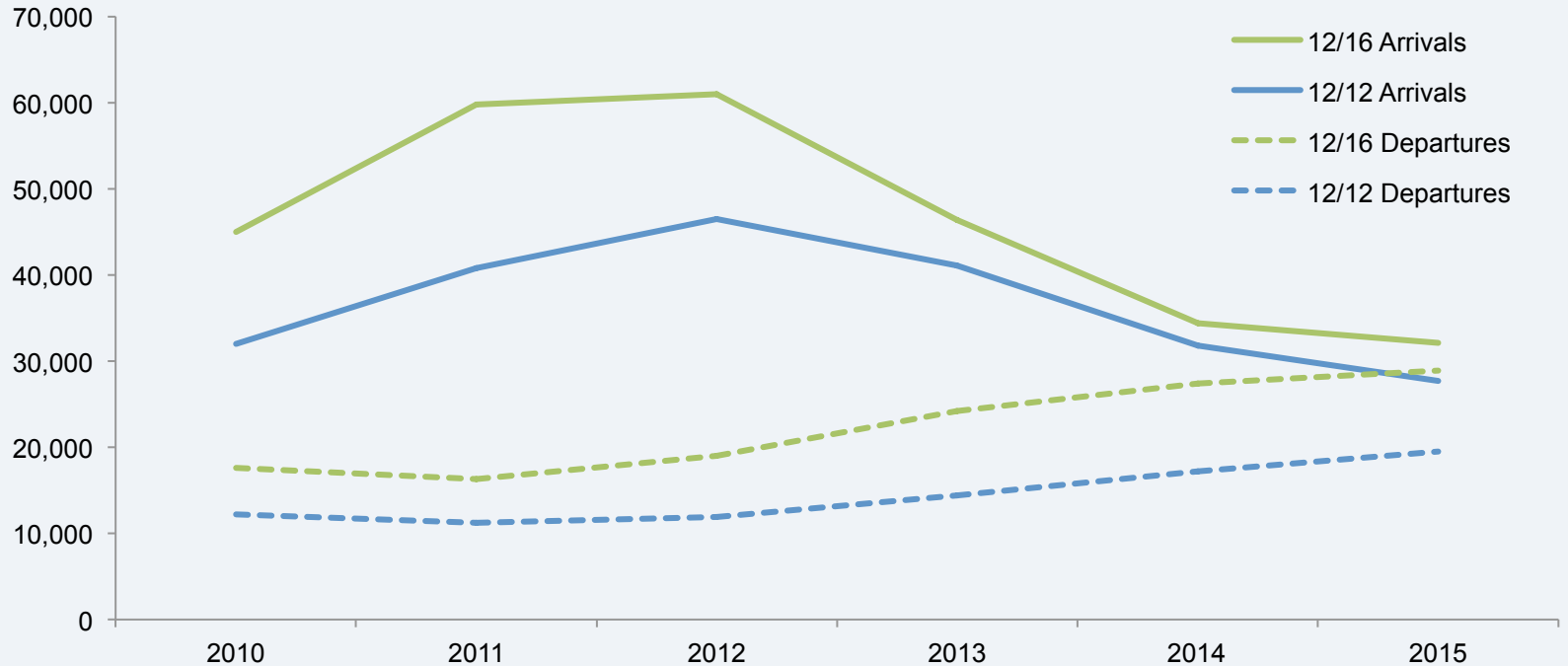
A Brief History of NOM

2006 to present:

- ▶ 12/16 month method introduced
- ▶ Requirement is **non-continuous duration** of 12 months, measured over 16 month period
- ▶ **Both Initial & Final** residency status is derived using duration for all travellers – no traveller self determination

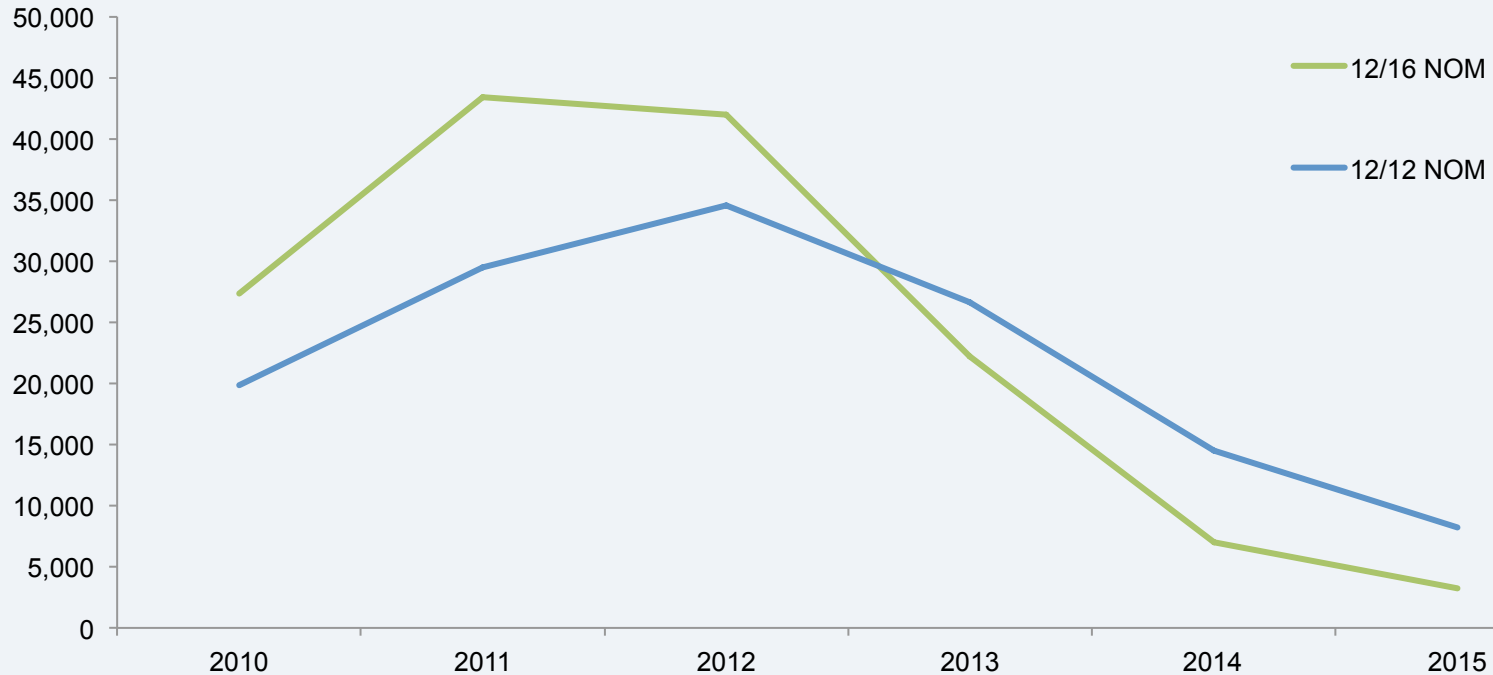
NOM Method Comparison, NZ Citizens

Migrant Arrivals and Migrant Departures



NOM Method Comparison, NZ Citizens

Net Overseas Migration



A Brief History of Preliminary NOM

Preliminary NOM

- ▶ Must **wait 16 months** to measure actual durations
- ▶ Modelling introduced to retain production of timely NOM estimates
- ▶ Revision cycle introduced to gain full benefit of actual durations

A Brief History of Preliminary NOM

- ▶ 2006 to 2009
 - **2 year ago** propensity model based on **self identified** categories from passenger card
 - Model applied to **all** travellers in reference quarter (e.g. 4 million)

A Brief History of Preliminary NOM

- ▶ 2009 to 2016
 - Approximate **1 year ago** propensity model based on **self identified** categories from passenger card
 - Model only applied to approx **half** of travellers in reference quarter (e.g. 2 million)
 - Improved accuracy by 55%

New Preliminary NOM Method

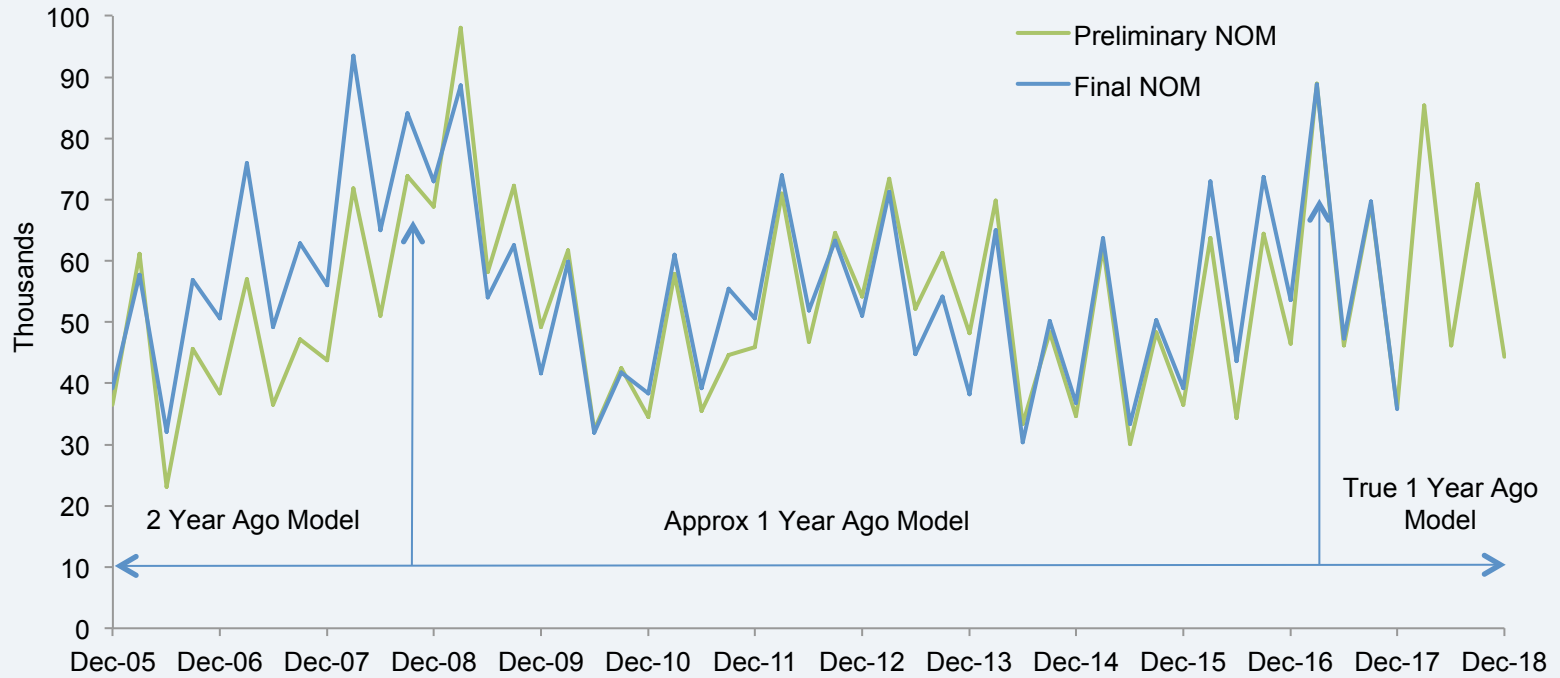
- ▶ 2017 onwards
 - Removal of outgoing passenger card by Home Affairs
 - **True 1 year ago** propensity model, **no reliance** on self identified categories from passenger card
 - Delivery dates altered to allow inclusion of **1 more month of data**
 - Model only needed for approx **a quarter** of travellers in reference quarter (e.g. 1 million)
 - Improved accuracy by **a further 50%**

Removal of Outgoing Passenger Card

- ▶ From July 2017 the Outgoing Passenger Card was discontinued in Australia
- ▶ Necessitated review of NOM methods & data sources
 - Increased reliance on existing & new administrative data
 - Increased reliance on Incoming Passenger Card (e.g. State)
 - Rebuilt Overseas Arrivals & Departures (OAD) processing system which remains the main data source for NOM
 - Rebuilt NOM processing system, revised back to 2011

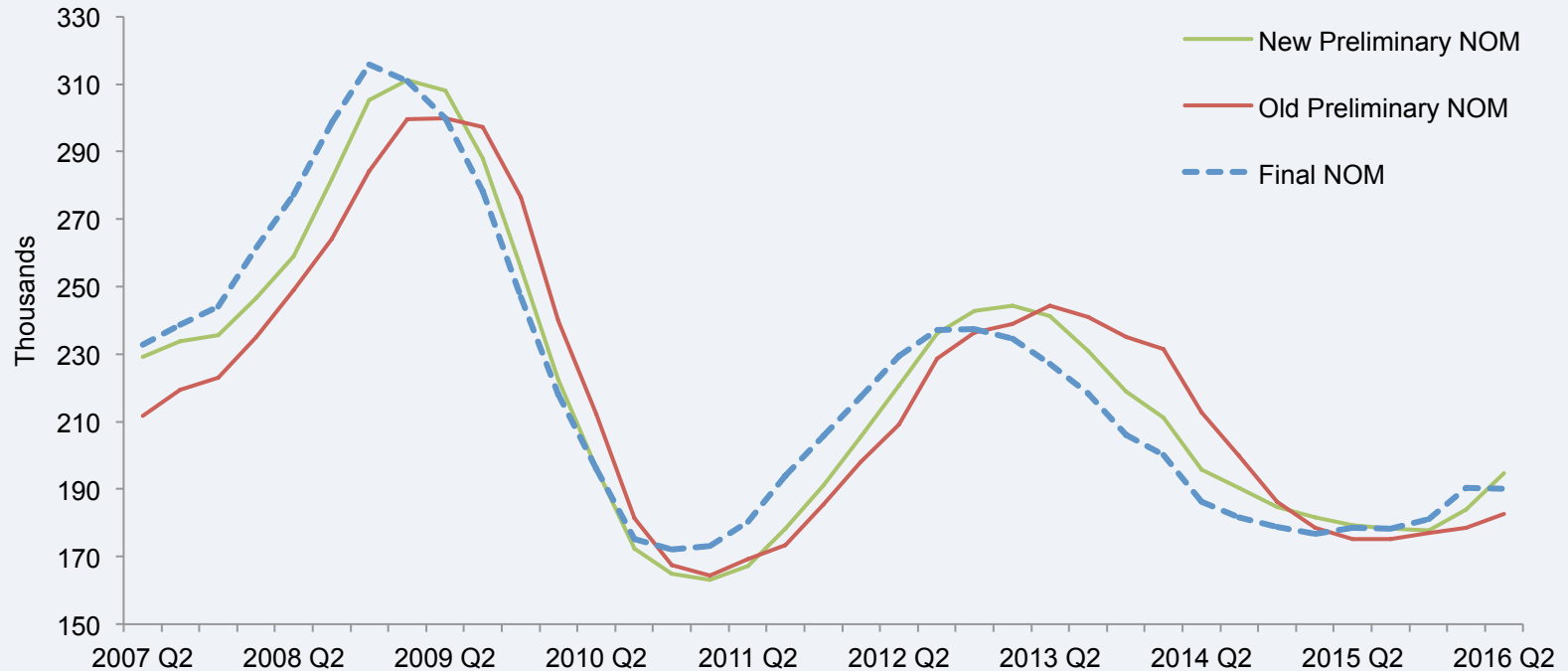
Comparison of Preliminary Models

Quarterly - Dec Qtr 2005 to Dec Qtr 2017



NOM – Australia, Year Ending by Quarter

Estimates from New and Old methods compared



A decorative geometric pattern on the left side of the slide, consisting of various colored triangles (yellow, red, green, blue) arranged in a stepped, staircase-like fashion. The background of the slide is a dark blue gradient with faint, glowing binary code (0s and 1s) and a line graph with a red line and a bar chart with pink bars.

Questions?