Bosnia and Herzegovina-born
Community Information Summary

Historical Background

Prior to the mid-1960s very few Bosnians migrated to Australia, preferring to migrate to Turkey (as many Bosnian Muslims have Turkish ancestors) and, in more recent years, to Germany.

Significant numbers of Bosnia and Herzegovina-born arrived in Australia under the Humanitarian Program in the early 1990s as a result of religious and ethnic conflicts in the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

Before the outbreak of civil war in the former Republic of Yugoslavia in 1992, the constituent republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina was populated by three major ethnic groups: Muslims (around 40 per cent), Serbians (32 per cent) and Croatians (18 per cent).

The social organisation of the Bosnia and Herzegovina-born in Australia depends mainly on their ethnic/religious background.

Migration from Bosnia and Herzegovina to Australia has declined since the end of the conflicts.

The 2011 Census recorded 25,683 Bosnia and Herzegovina-born people in Australia.

2016 Census

Geographic Distribution

The latest Census in 2016 recorded 23,956 Bosnia and Herzegovina-born people in Australia, a decrease of 6.7 per cent from the 2011 Census.

The 2016 distribution by State and Territory showed Victoria had the largest number with 8,487 followed by New South Wales (7,095), Queensland (3,187) and Western Australia (2,673).
**Age and Sex**

The median age of the Bosnia and Herzegovina-born in 2016 was 49 years compared with 44 years for all overseas-born and 38 years for the total Australian population.

The age distribution showed 0.6 per cent were aged 0-14 years, 5.6 per cent were 15-24 years, 35.0 per cent were 25-44 years, 41.2 per cent were 45-64 years and 17.7 per cent were 65 years and over.

Of the Bosnia and Herzegovina-born in Australia, there were 11,707 males (48.9 per cent) and 12,250 females (51.1 per cent). The sex ratio was 96 males per 100 females.

**Ancestry**

In the 2016 Census, the top ancestry responses* that Bosnia and Herzegovina-born people reported were Bosnian (12,954), Serbian (5,795) and Croatian (4,170).

In the 2016 Census, Australians reported over 300 different ancestries. Of the total ancestry responses* 23,630 responses were towards Bosnian ancestry.

* At the 2016 Census up to two responses per person were allowed for the Ancestry question, therefore there can be more responses than total persons.

**Language**

The main languages spoken at home by Bosnia and Herzegovina-born people in Australia were Bosnian (10,316), Serbian (6,102) and Croatian (4,247).

Of the 21,861 Bosnia and Herzegovina-born who spoke a language other than English at home, 76.0 per cent spoke English very well or well, and 23.1 per cent spoke English not well or not at all.
Religion

At the 2016 Census the major religious affiliations amongst Bosnia and Herzegovina-born were Islam (5,560), Catholic (5,162) and Eastern Orthodox (4,645).

Of the Bosnia and Herzegovina-born, 21.8 per cent stated 'No Religion' which was lower than that of the total Australian population (29.6 per cent), and 5.5 per cent did not state a religion.

Arrival

Compared to 61.8 per cent of the total overseas-born population, 93.0 per cent of the Bosnia and Herzegovina-born people in Australia arrived in Australia prior to 2007.

Among the total Bosnia and Herzegovina-born in Australia at the 2016 Census, 2.8 per cent arrived between 2007 and 2011 and 2.4 per cent arrived between 2012 and 2016.

Median Income

At the time of the 2016 Census, the median Individual Weekly Income for the Bosnia and Herzegovina-born in Australia aged 15 years and over was $582, compared with $615 for all overseas-born and $688 for all Australian-born.

The total Australian population aged 15 and over had a median Individual Weekly Income of $662.
Qualifications
At the 2016 Census, 57.9 per cent of the Bosnia and Herzegovina-born aged 15 years and over had some form of higher non-school qualification compared to 60.1 per cent of the Australian population.

Of the Bosnia and Herzegovina-born aged 15 years and over, 3.2 per cent had no qualifications and were still attending an educational institution. The corresponding rate for the total Australian population was 8.5 per cent.

Employment
Among Bosnia and Herzegovina-born people aged 15 years and over, the participation rate in the labour force was 58.1 per cent and the unemployment rate was 6.0 per cent.

The corresponding rates in the total Australian population were 64.6 per cent and 6.9 per cent respectively.

Of the 12,864 Bosnia and Herzegovina-born who were employed, 47.5 per cent were employed in either a skilled managerial, professional or trade occupation. The corresponding rate in the total Australian population was 48.8 per cent.

Produced by the Australian Bureau of Statistics for the Department of Home Affairs

All data used in this summary is sourced from the Australian Bureau of Statistics Census of Population and Housing.

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