



Croatia-born Community Information Summary

Historical Background

Croatia was part of the former Yugoslavia, hence separate census data on Croatia-born in Australia was not captured before 1996.

Croatian settlement in Australia began in the nineteenth century, prompted by strong hostility to Austro-Hungarian rule. By 1854 at least two Croatians were working in the Victorian goldfields. By 1900, a substantial number of Croatian migrants had arrived in Australia, mainly from Dalmatia due to an outbreak of the phylloxera disease in the wine industry. The 1933 Census listed 2830 Yugoslavia-born in Australia.

Immediately after World War II, the Yugoslavia-born population in Australian quadrupled from 5870 in 1947 to 22,860 in 1954. Many migrated under the post war Displaced Persons Scheme (which peaked in 1958) and a significant number of those were ethnic Croatians. However, unlike other displaced persons groups, the Yugoslavia-born (including Croatians) continued to increase in numbers through the next two decades.

In the 1960s, the Yugoslav Government opened its borders to allow its citizens to seek employment abroad. Between 1961 and 1976 almost 100,000 Yugoslavia-born people (including Croatians) took advantage of this opportunity and migrated to Australia. The Yugoslavia-born population reached 160,480 by the 1991 Census.

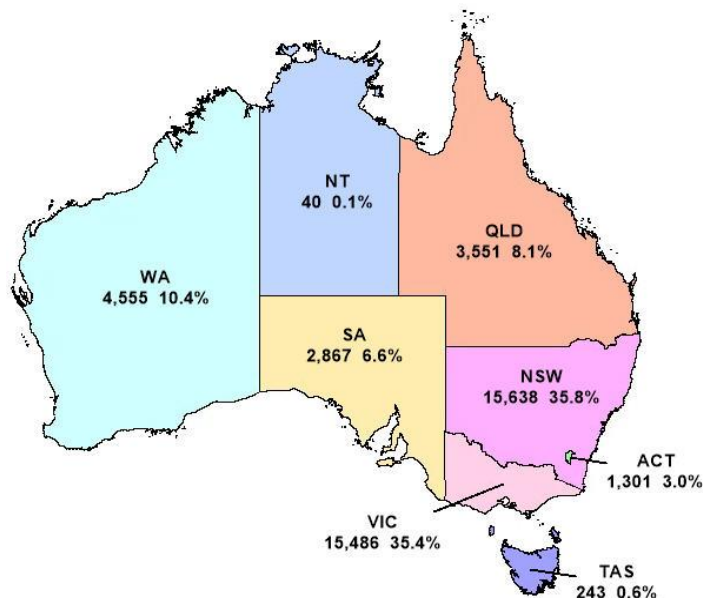
Almost 30,000 settlers from the republics of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia migrated to Australia after 1991 due to the conflicts following the breakup of Yugoslavia. Most of these new arrivals came under Australia's Humanitarian Program. Migration from Croatia has been in decline since the early 2000s.

2016 Census

Geographic Distribution

The latest Census in 2016 recorded 43,688 Croatia-born people in Australia, a decrease of 10.5 per cent from the 2011 Census.

The 2016 distribution by State and Territory showed New South Wales had the largest number with 15,638 followed by Victoria (15,486), Western Australia (4,555) and Queensland (3,551).

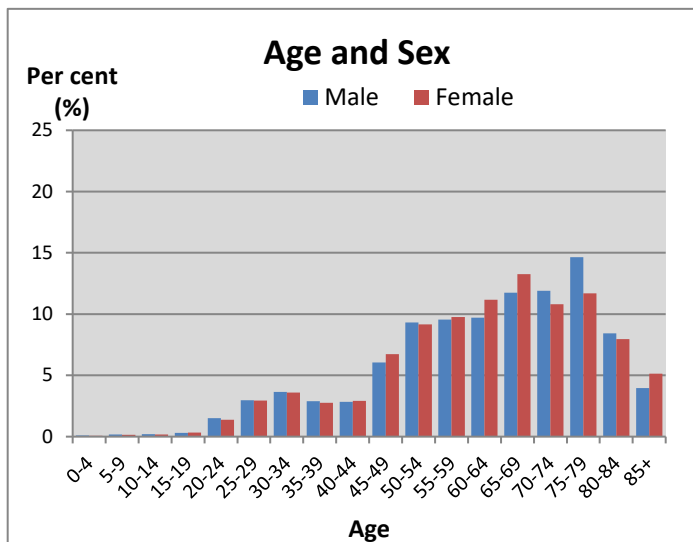


Age and Sex

The median age of the Croatia-born in 2016 was 64 years compared with 44 years for all overseas-born and 38 years for the total Australian population.

The age distribution showed 0.4 per cent were aged 0-14 years, 1.8 per cent were 15-24 years, 12.3 per cent were 25-44 years, 35.8 per cent were 45-64 years and 49.7 per cent were 65 years and over.

Of the Croatia-born in Australia, there were 21,518 males (49.3 per cent) and 22,163 females (50.7 per cent). The sex ratio was 97 males per 100 females.

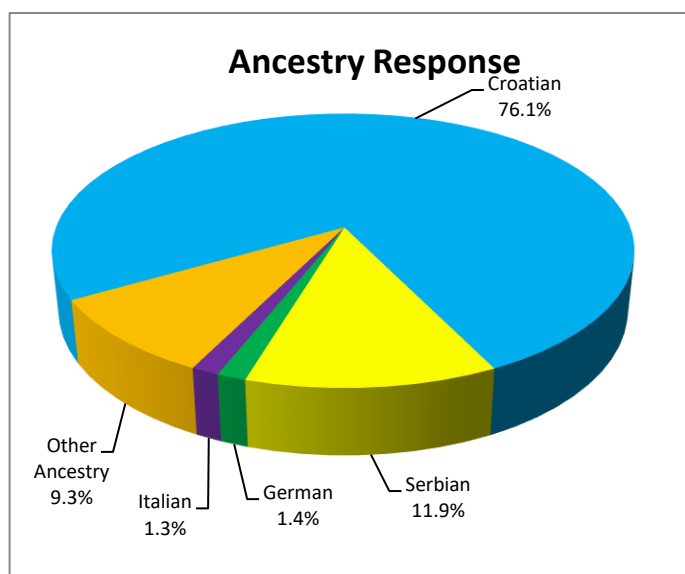


Ancestry

In the 2016 Census, the top ancestry responses* that Croatia-born people reported were Croatian (35,135), Serbian (5,501) and German (639).

In the 2016 Census, Australians reported over 300 different ancestries. Of the total ancestry responses* 133,268 responses were towards Croatian ancestry.

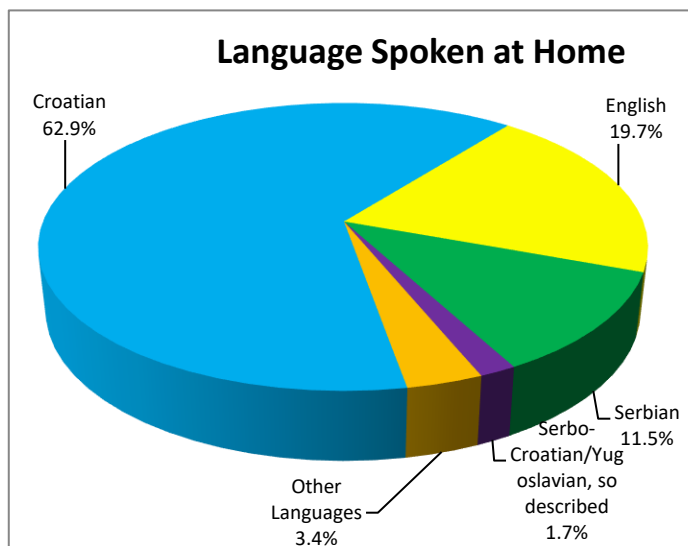
* At the 2016 Census up to two responses per person were allowed for the Ancestry question, therefore there can be more responses than total persons.



Language

The main languages spoken at home by Croatia-born people in Australia were Croatian (27,498), English (8,615) and Serbian (5,004).

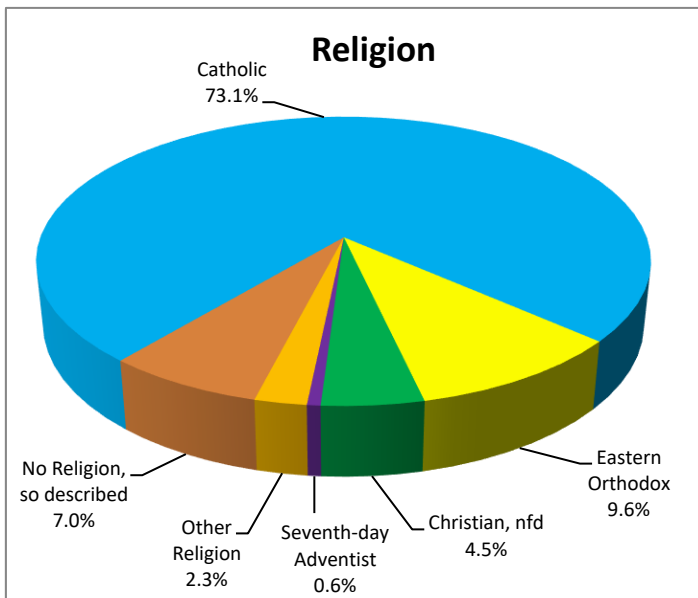
Of the 34,905 Croatia-born who spoke a language other than English at home, 78.9 per cent spoke English very well or well, and 20.1 per cent spoke English not well or not at all.



Religion

At the 2016 Census the major religious affiliations amongst Croatia-born were Catholic (31,925), Eastern Orthodox (4,211) and Christian, nfd (1,949).

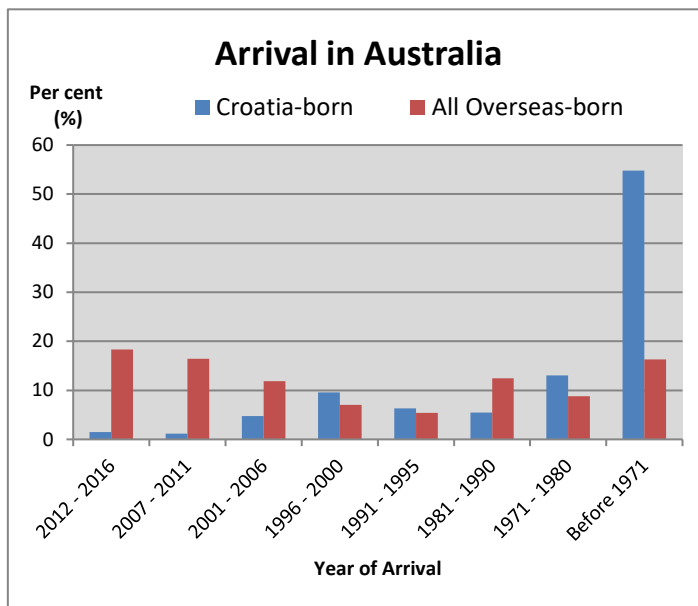
Of the Croatia-born, 7.0 per cent stated 'No Religion' which was lower than that of the total Australian population (29.6 per cent), and 2.7 per cent did not state a religion.



Arrival

Compared to 61.8 per cent of the total overseas-born population, 94.0 per cent of the Croatia-born people in Australia arrived in Australia prior to 2007.

Among the total Croatia-born in Australia at the 2016 Census, 1.2 per cent arrived between 2007 and 2011 and 1.5 per cent arrived between 2012 and 2016.



Median Income

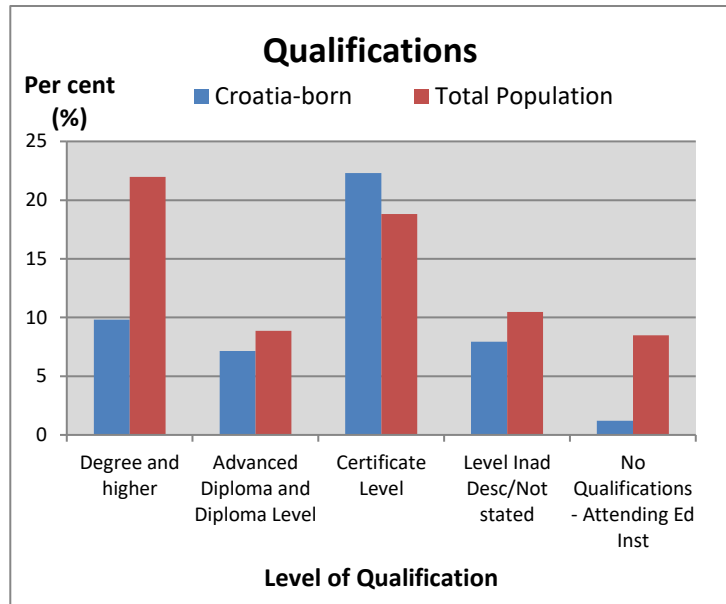
At the time of the 2016 Census, the median Individual Weekly Income for the Croatia-born in Australia aged 15 years and over was \$446, compared with \$615 for all overseas-born and \$688 for all Australian-born.

The total Australian population aged 15 and over had a median Individual Weekly Income of \$662.

Qualifications

At the 2016 Census, 47.2 per cent of the Croatia-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 Croatia-born aged 15 years and over, 1.2 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.

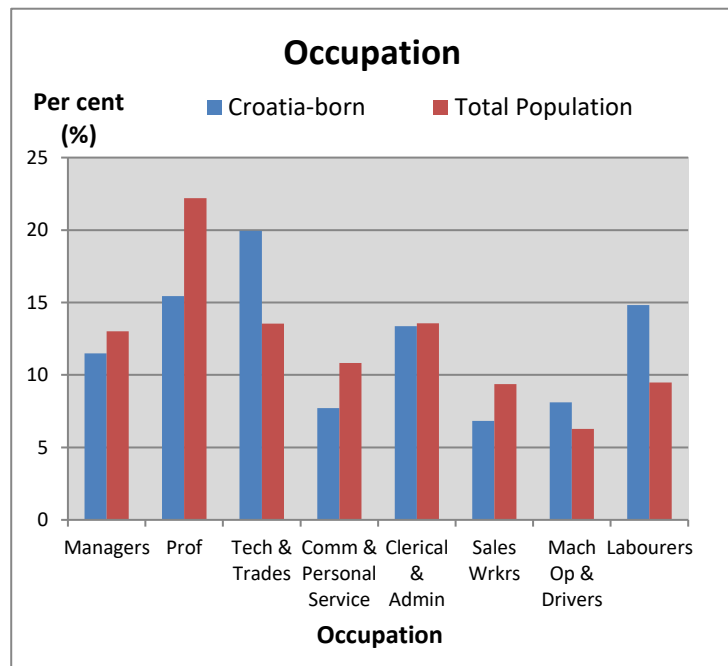


Employment

Among Croatia-born people aged 15 years and over, the participation rate in the labour force was 39.4 per cent and the unemployment rate was 5.5 per cent.

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

Of the 15,845 Croatia-born who were employed, 46.9 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.