



Egypt-born Community Information Summary

Historical Background

At the time of the 1901 Census, there were 108 Egypt-born people living in Australia and by 1947 this number increased to 803. Many of the Egypt-born migrants who settled in Australia after World War II were of Italian, Maltese, Greek and Armenian descent.

By 1954, there were more than 8000 Egypt-born people living in Australia. This increase was due in large part to Egypt's attainment of independence in 1953 and the pan-Arabist policies adopted by its government, which led to dramatic social, economic and political unrest. This unrest was felt most acutely by the Coptic Christians and other minority groups.

Significant numbers of Coptic Christians continued to migrate to Australia during the 1960s, partly as a result of the 1967 war with Israel. Egyptian migrants to Australia at this time included some of the relatively privileged members of Egypt's pre-independence society.

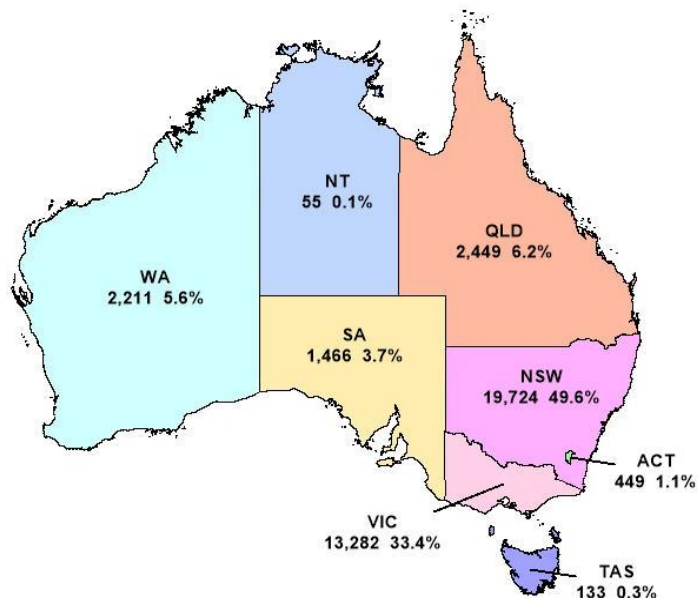
Following independence, there was a shortage of skilled employment opportunities in Egypt. As a result, many of the migrants who came to Australia during this time came from urban centres and were highly educated. With the exception of a small surge peaking in 2013, Egypt-born arrivals to Australia have remained constant and quite highly educated.

2016 Census

Geographic Distribution

The latest Census in 2016 recorded 39,779 Egypt-born people in Australia, an increase of 8.9 per cent from the 2011 Census.

The 2016 distribution by State and Territory showed New South Wales had the largest number with 19,724 followed by Victoria (13,282), Queensland (2,449) and Western Australia (2,211).

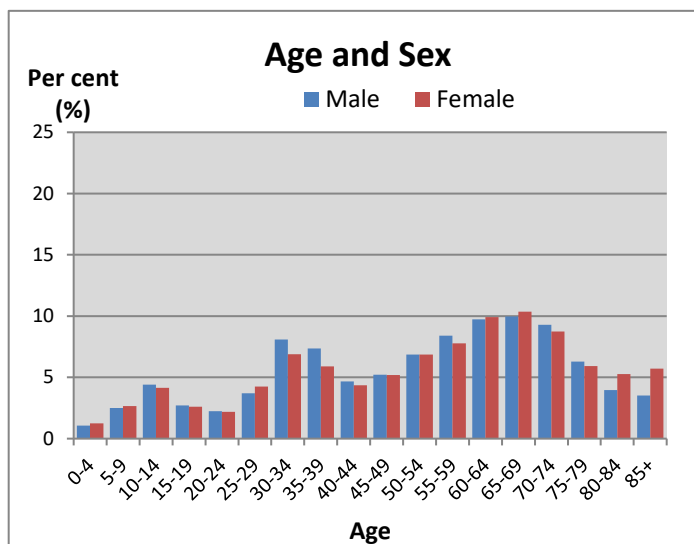


Age and Sex

The median age of the Egypt-born in 2016 was 56 years compared with 44 years for all overseas-born and 38 years for the total Australian population.

The age distribution showed 8.0 per cent were aged 0-14 years, 4.9 per cent were 15-24 years, 22.7 per cent were 25-44 years, 30.0 per cent were 45-64 years and 34.4 per cent were 65 years and over.

Of the Egypt-born in Australia, there were 20,547 males (51.7 per cent) and 19,233 females (48.3 per cent). The sex ratio was 107 males per 100 females.

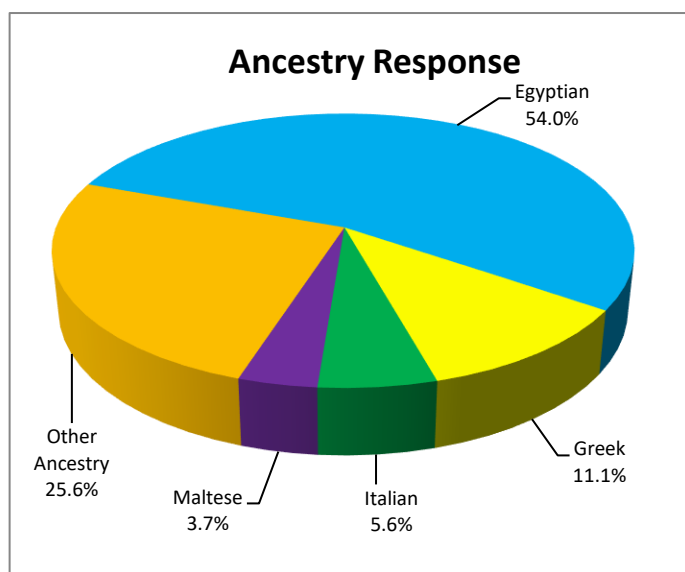


Ancestry

In the 2016 Census, the top ancestry responses* that Egypt-born people reported were Egyptian (24,098), Greek (4,961) and Italian (2,491).

In the 2016 Census, Australians reported over 300 different ancestries. Of the total ancestry responses* 50,517 responses were towards Egyptian ancestry.

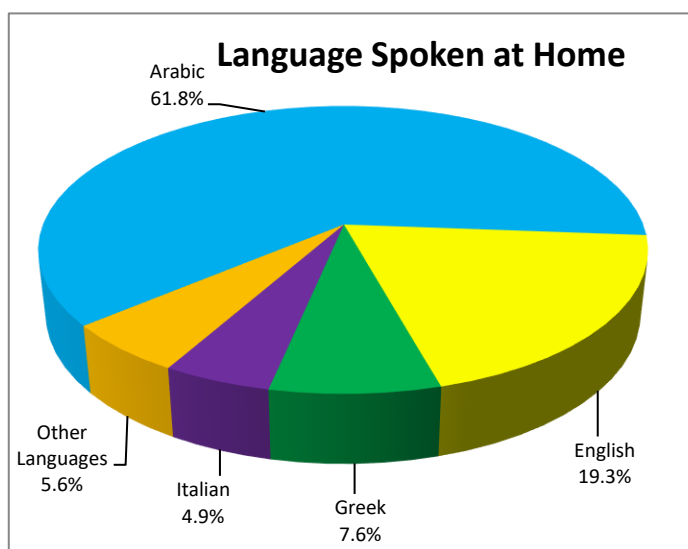
* At the 2016 Census up to two responses per person were allowed for the Ancestry question, therefore there can be more responses than total persons.



Language

The main languages spoken at home by Egypt-born people in Australia were Arabic (24,576), English (7,693) and Greek (3,011).

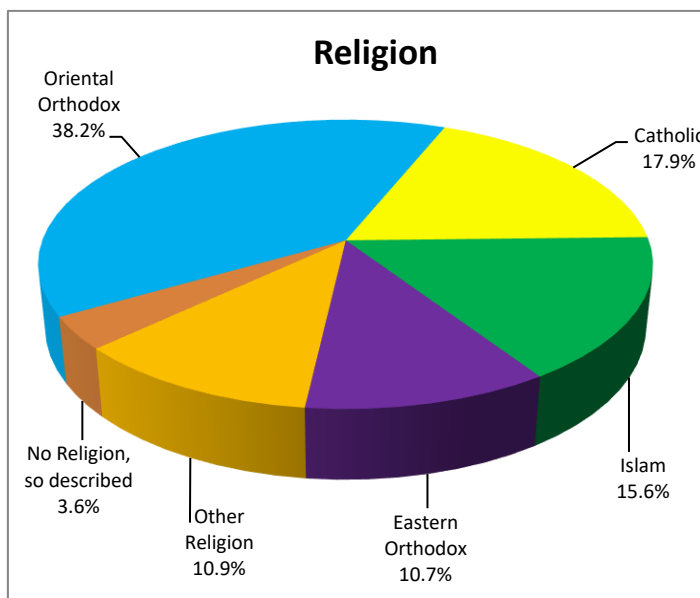
Of the 31,960 Egypt-born who spoke a language other than English at home, 88.6 per cent spoke English very well or well, and 10.7 per cent spoke English not well or not at all.



Religion

At the 2016 Census the major religious affiliations amongst Egypt-born were Oriental Orthodox (15,208), Catholic (7,128) and Islam (6,192).

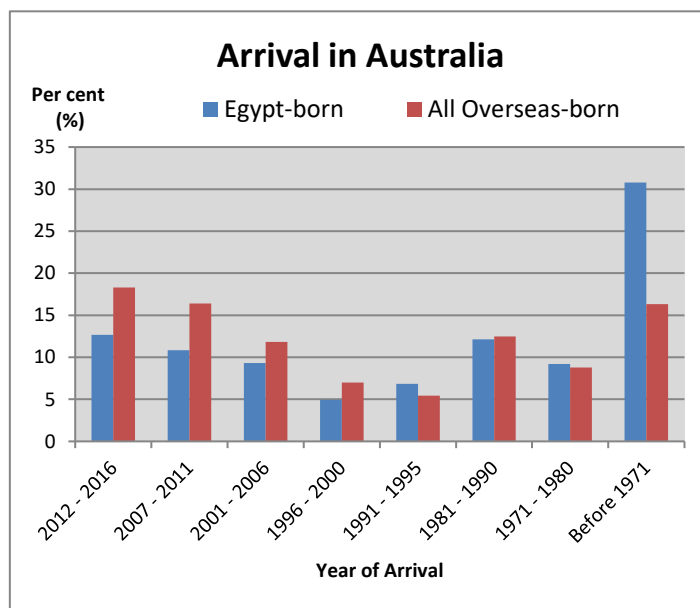
Of the Egypt-born, 3.6 per cent stated 'No Religion' which was lower than that of the total Australian population (29.6 per cent), and 2.9 per cent did not state a religion.



Arrival

Compared to 61.8 per cent of the total overseas-born population, 73.3 per cent of the Egypt-born people in Australia arrived in Australia prior to 2007.

Among the total Egypt-born in Australia at the 2016 Census, 10.8 per cent arrived between 2007 and 2011 and 12.7 per cent arrived between 2012 and 2016.



Median Income

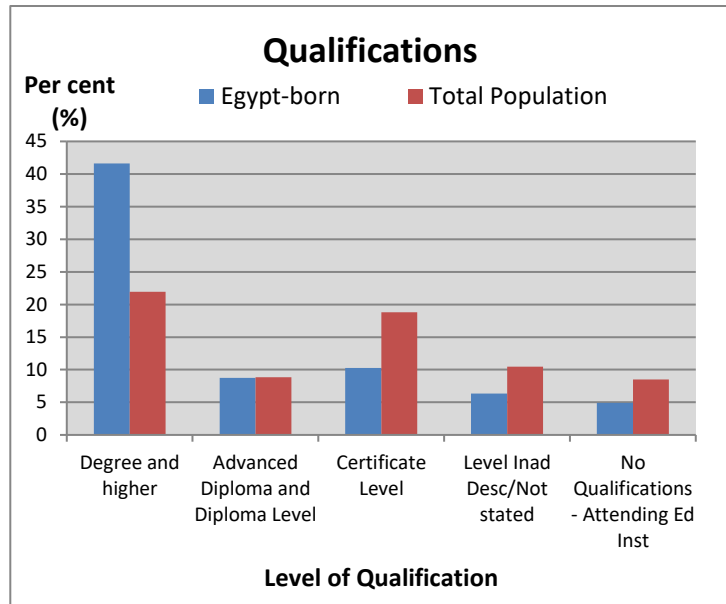
At the time of the 2016 Census, the median Individual Weekly Income for the Egypt-born in Australia aged 15 years and over was \$489, compared with \$615 for all overseas-born and \$688 for all Australian-born.

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

Qualifications

At the 2016 Census, 67.0 per cent of the Egypt-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 Egypt-born aged 15 years and over, 4.9 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.

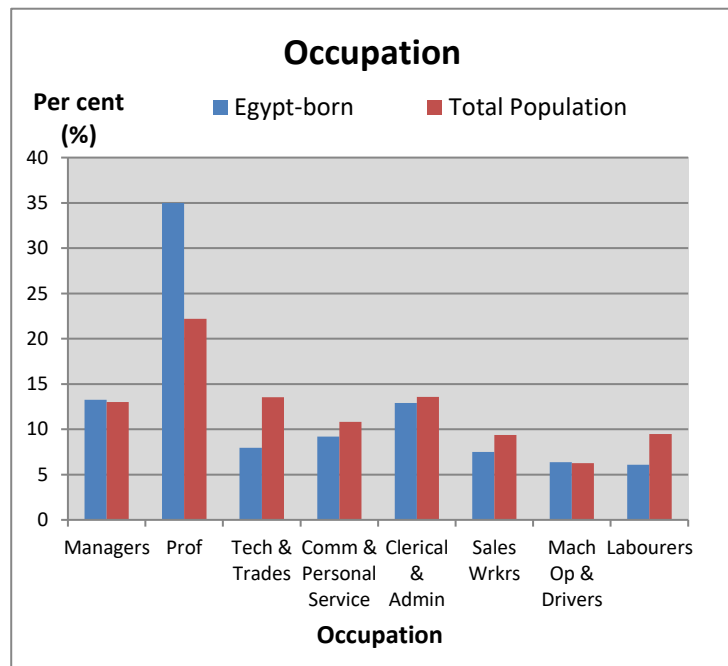


Employment

Among Egypt-born people aged 15 years and over, the participation rate in the labour force was 48.5 per cent and the unemployment rate was 8.9 per cent.

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

Of the 15,929 Egypt-born who were employed, 56.2 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.