



Hong Kong-born Community Information Summary

Historical Background

The island of Hong Kong is situated close to the mainland of southeast China adjoining Guangdong province. In 1842 Britain leased the island as a commercial and strategic port. In 1997, the island reverted to Chinese rule as the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China.

Since 1901, Australian Censuses have recorded Hong Kong-born persons as a separate birthplace group. During the gold rush years of the 1850s, a large number of Chinese came to Australia with Hong Kong as their point of departure. However, immigration restrictions from 1901 excluded most non-Europeans from entering Australia.

The easing of immigration restrictions in the late 1960s and early 1970s led to an increase in Chinese migration to Australia. Most Hong Kong-born people arrived in Australia after the mid-1980s under the Skilled Migration Program and Concessional Family Migration Program. By 1986 there were 28,288 Hong Kong-born in Australia. Many students from Hong Kong and Southeast Asia also came to Australia and some of them remained in Australia after graduation.

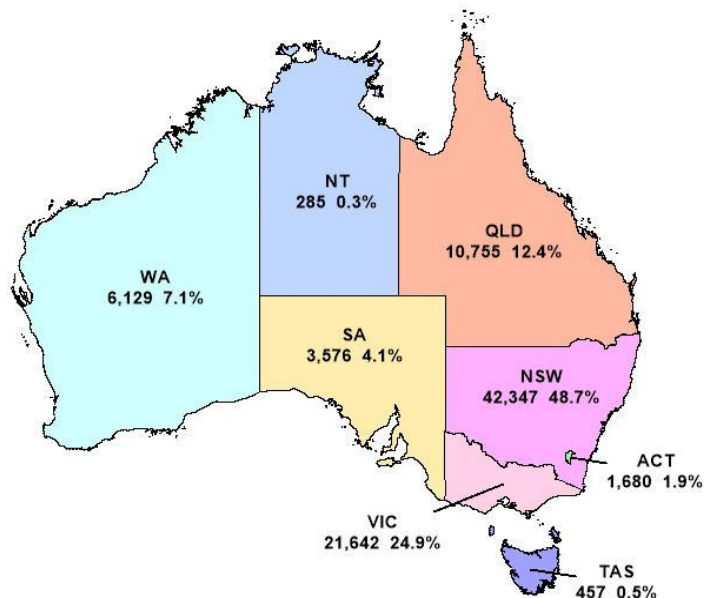
A large number of business and professional people migrated to Australia prior to Hong Kong's hand-over to China in 1997. During the period from 1984 to 1996 arrivals from Hong Kong numbered 75,480, representing the largest source of skilled Asian migration to Australia at that time. Since then Hong Kong-born people continue to arrive in Australia though at a reduced rate.

2016 Census

Geographic Distribution

The latest Census in 2016 recorded 86,886 Hong Kong-born people in Australia, an increase of 15.9 per cent from the 2011 Census.

The 2016 distribution by State and Territory showed New South Wales had the largest number with 42,347 followed by Victoria (21,642), Queensland (10,755) and Western Australia (6,129).

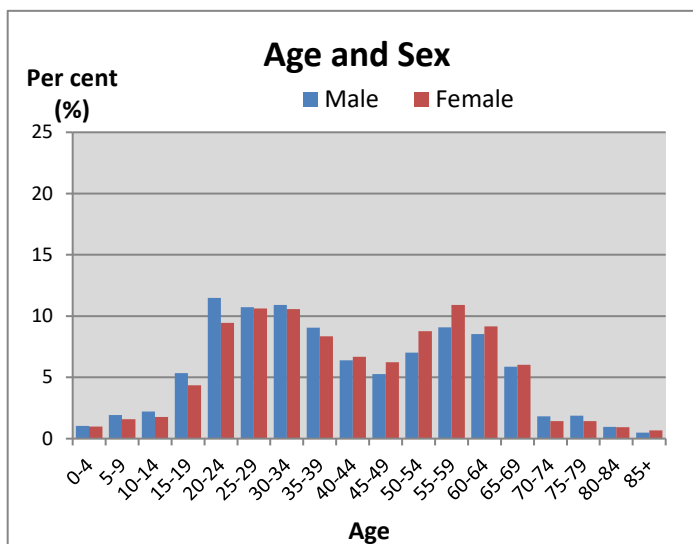


Age and Sex

The median age of the Hong Kong-born in 2016 was 39 years compared with 44 years for all overseas-born and 38 years for the total Australian population.

The age distribution showed 4.7 per cent were aged 0-14 years, 15.3 per cent were 15-24 years, 36.6 per cent were 25-44 years, 32.6 per cent were 45-64 years and 10.8 per cent were 65 years and over.

Of the Hong Kong-born in Australia, there were 41,645 males (47.9 per cent) and 45,243 females (52.1 per cent). The sex ratio was 92 males per 100 females.

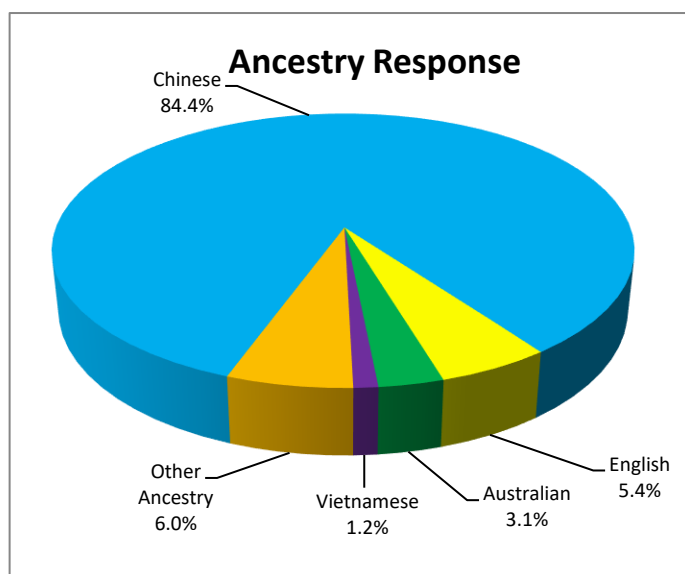


Ancestry

In the 2016 Census, the top ancestry responses* that Hong Kong-born people reported were Chinese (78,597), English (5,026) and Australian (2,867).

In the 2016 Census, Australians reported over 300 different ancestries. Of the total ancestry responses* 1,213,903 responses were towards Chinese ancestry.

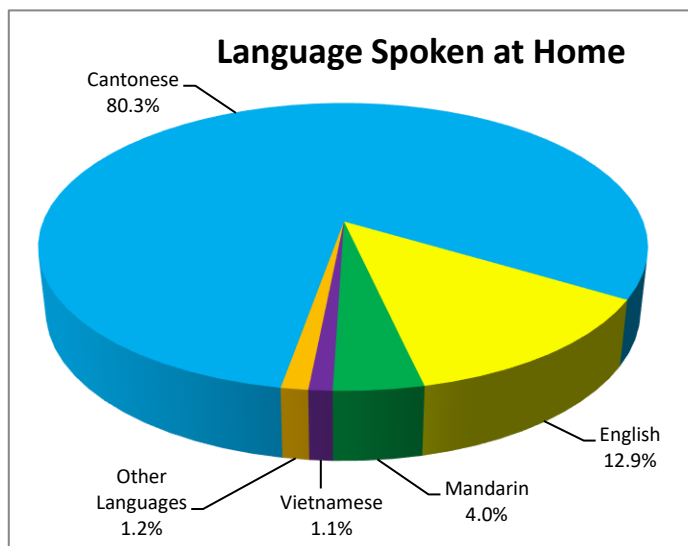
* At the 2016 Census up to two responses per person were allowed for the Ancestry question, therefore there can be more responses than total persons.



Language

The main languages spoken at home by Hong Kong-born people in Australia were Cantonese (69,753), English (11,171) and Mandarin (3,492).

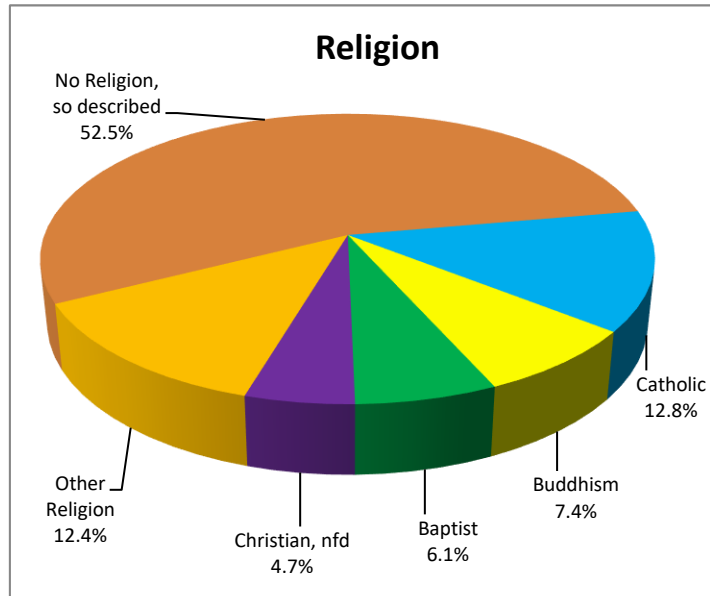
Of the 75,431 Hong Kong-born who spoke a language other than English at home, 84.6 per cent spoke English very well or well, and 15.0 per cent spoke English not well or not at all.



Religion

At the 2016 Census the major religious affiliations amongst Hong Kong-born were Catholic (11,087), Buddhism (6,398) and Baptist (5,338).

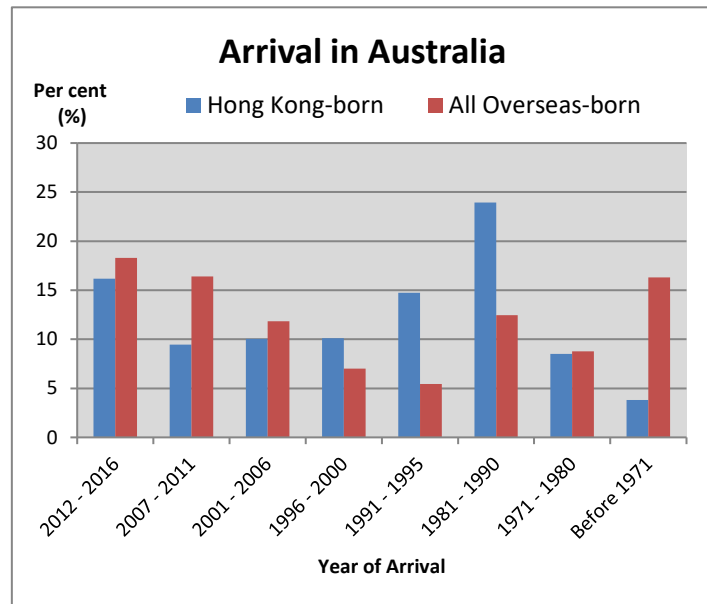
Of the Hong Kong-born, 52.5 per cent stated 'No Religion' which was higher than that of the total Australian population (29.6 per cent), and 3.9 per cent did not state a religion.



Arrival

Compared to 61.8 per cent of the total overseas-born population, 71.1 per cent of the Hong Kong-born people in Australia arrived in Australia prior to 2007.

Among the total Hong Kong-born in Australia at the 2016 Census, 9.5 per cent arrived between 2007 and 2011 and 16.2 per cent arrived between 2012 and 2016.



Median Income

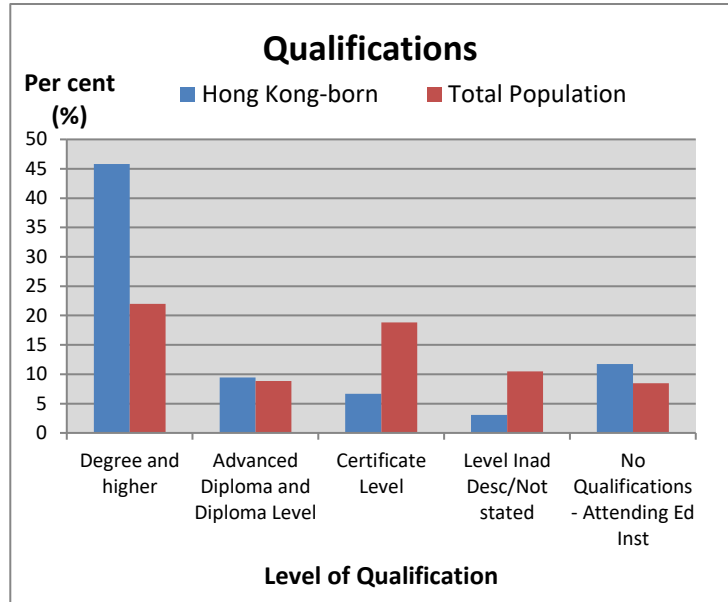
At the time of the 2016 Census, the median Individual Weekly Income for the Hong Kong-born in Australia aged 15 years and over was \$690, compared with \$615 for all overseas-born and \$688 for all Australian-born.

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

Qualifications

At the 2016 Census, 65.0 per cent of the Hong Kong-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 Hong Kong-born aged 15 years and over, 11.7 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.

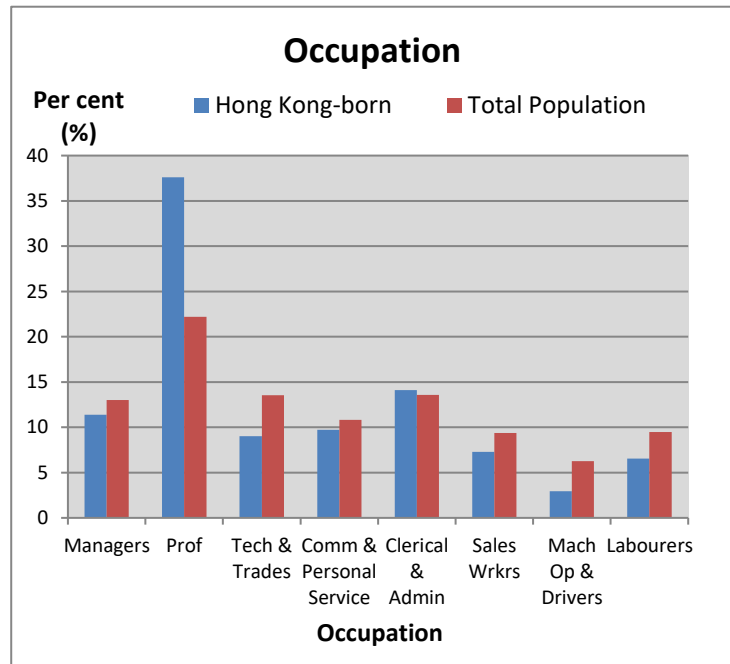


Employment

Among Hong Kong-born people aged 15 years and over, the participation rate in the labour force was 65.0 per cent and the unemployment rate was 7.4 per cent.

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

Of the 49,645 Hong Kong-born who were employed, 58.0 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.