



India-born Community Information Summary

Historical Background

The India-born population in Australia is made up of people who identify as Indian, English, Punjabi, Sikh, Australian and Anglo-Indian, amongst others.

Between 1800 and 1860, Indians were brought to Australia to work as labourers and domestic workers. From 1860 to 1901 many Indians arrived to work as agricultural labourers and hawkers, particularly in country towns. A number also worked in the goldfields. They were mainly Sikhs and Muslims from the Punjab region in northwest India with many settling in Woolgoolga on the New South Wales north central coast. Today, the Sikh settlement in Woolgoolga is one of the largest rurally based Indian communities in Australia.

Migration from India was curtailed after immigration restrictions were introduced in 1901. Following India's independence from Britain in 1947, the number of Anglo-Indians and India-born British citizens immigrating to Australia increased.

The easing of immigration restrictions in the late 1960s saw an increase in non-European Indians migrating to Australia. By 1981, the India-born population reached 41,657 and the new arrivals included professionals such as doctors, teachers, computer programmers and engineers. Unlike the early settlers, those arriving after the 1960s came from many parts of India belonging to various religious, linguistic and cultural groups.

The number of India-born in Australia has rapidly increased in the last two decades. The 1996 Census reported 77,551 India-born in Australia. This number almost doubled ten years later, to 147,105 at the time of the 2006 Census. The number more than trebled ten years later to 455,385 at the 2016 Census.

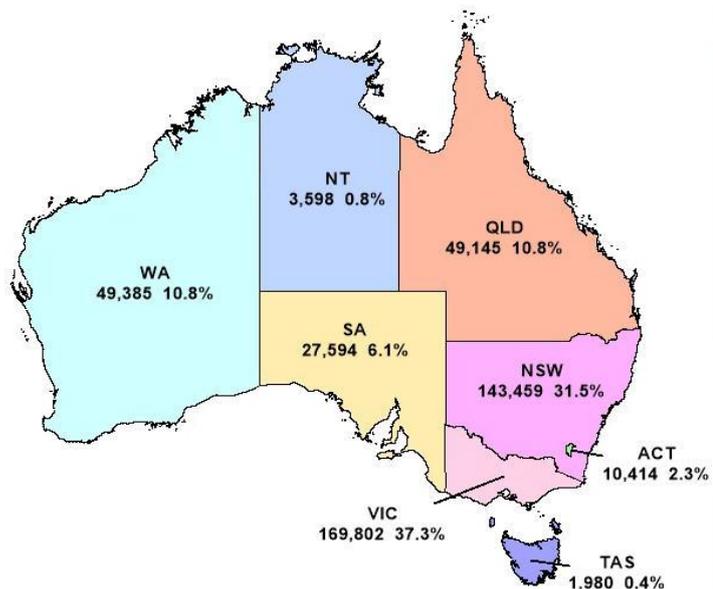
As India is one of the top source countries of migrants to Australia, the number of India-born continues to grow.

2016 Census

Geographic Distribution

The latest Census in 2016 recorded 455,389 India-born people in Australia, an increase of 54.2 per cent from the 2011 Census.

The 2016 distribution by State and Territory showed Victoria had the largest number with 169,802 followed by New South Wales (143,459), Western Australia (49,385) and Queensland (49,145).

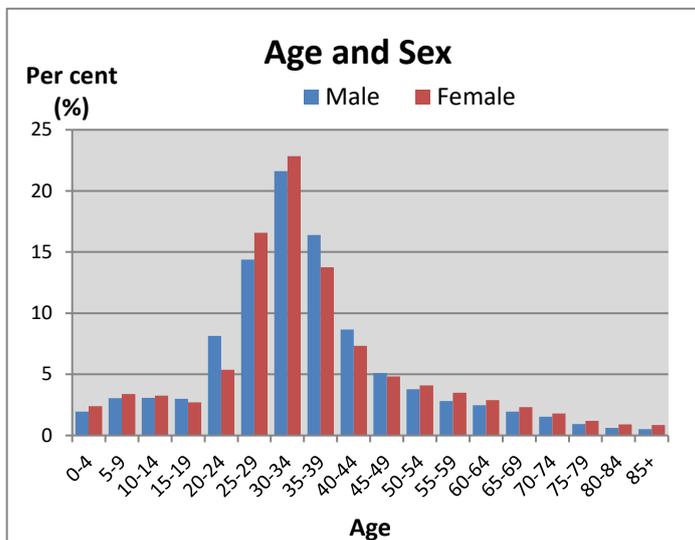


Age and Sex

The median age of the India-born in 2016 was 33 years compared with 44 years for all overseas-born and 38 years for the total Australian population.

The age distribution showed 8.5 per cent were aged 0-14 years, 9.7 per cent were 15-24 years, 60.8 per cent were 25-44 years, 14.7 per cent were 45-64 years and 6.3 per cent were 65 years and over.

Of the India-born in Australia, there were 245,416 males (53.9 per cent) and 209,972 females (46.1 per cent). The sex ratio was 117 males per 100 females.

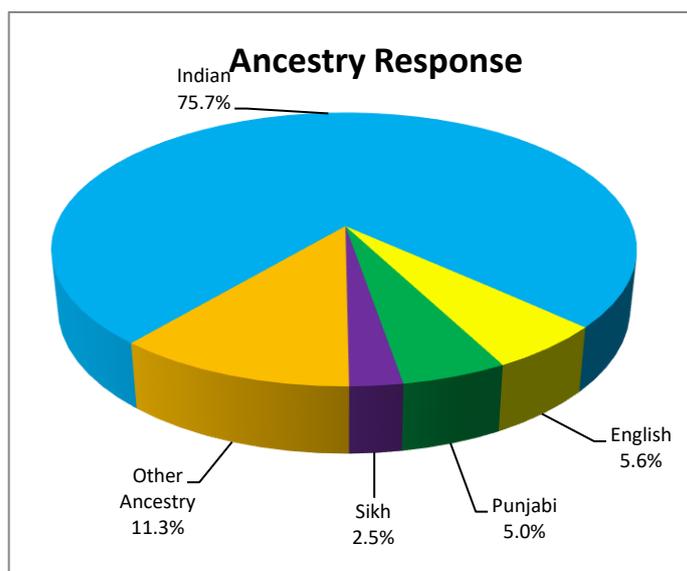


Ancestry

In the 2016 Census, the top ancestry responses* that India-born people reported were Indian (375,866), English (27,663) and Punjabi (24,660).

In the 2016 Census, Australians reported over 300 different ancestries. Of the total ancestry responses* 619,164 responses were towards Indian ancestry.

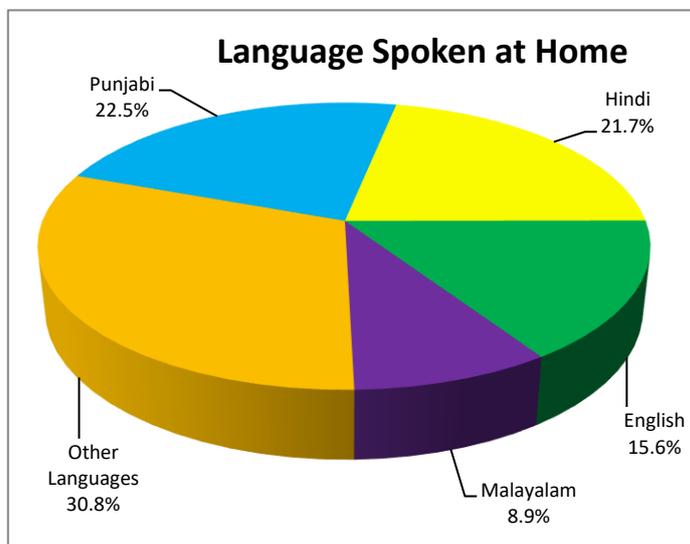
* At the 2016 Census up to two responses per person were allowed for the Ancestry question, therefore there can be more responses than total persons.



Language

The main languages spoken at home by India-born people in Australia were Punjabi (102,661), Hindi (98,625) and English (71,137).

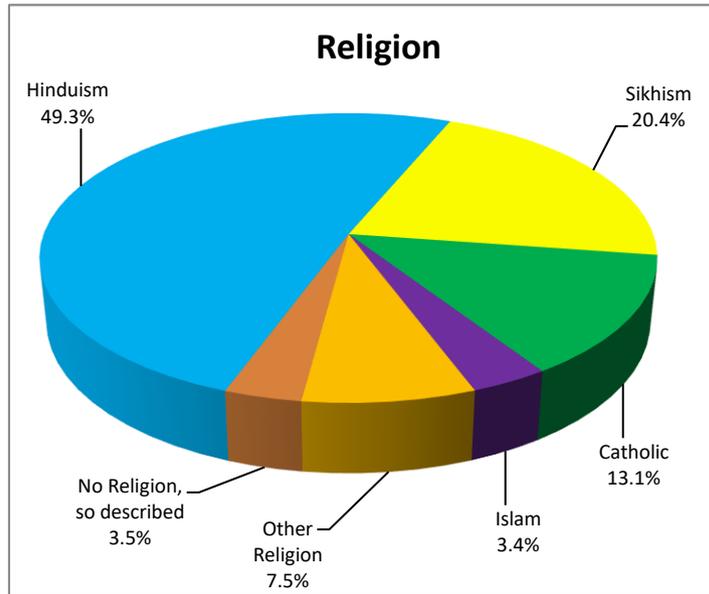
Of the 383,262 India-born who spoke a language other than English at home, 93.5 per cent spoke English very well or well, and 5.9 per cent spoke English not well or not at all.



Religion

At the 2016 Census the major religious affiliations amongst India-born were Hinduism (224,605), Sikhism (93,125) and Catholic (59,699).

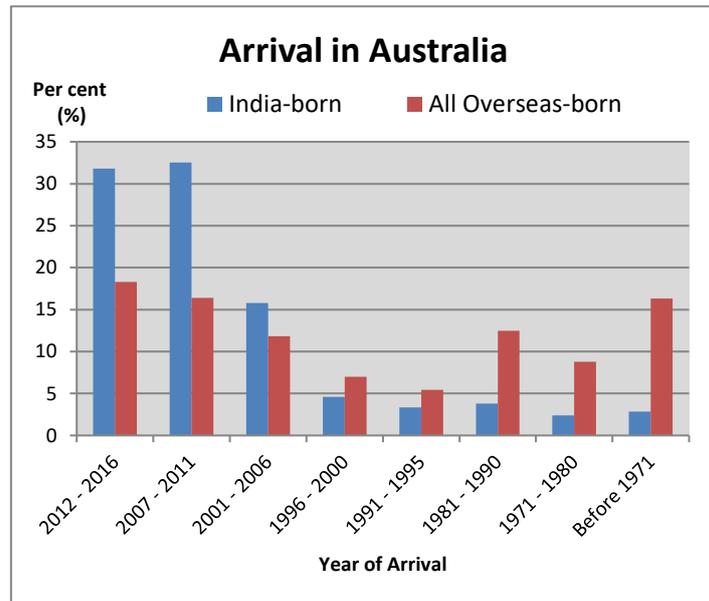
Of the India-born, 3.5 per cent stated 'No Religion' which was lower than that of the total Australian population (29.6 per cent), and 2.3 per cent did not state a religion.



Arrival

Compared to 61.8 per cent of the total overseas-born population, 32.8 per cent of the India-born people in Australia arrived in Australia prior to 2007.

Among the total India-born in Australia at the 2016 Census, 32.5 per cent arrived between 2007 and 2011 and 31.8 per cent arrived between 2012 and 2016.



Median Income

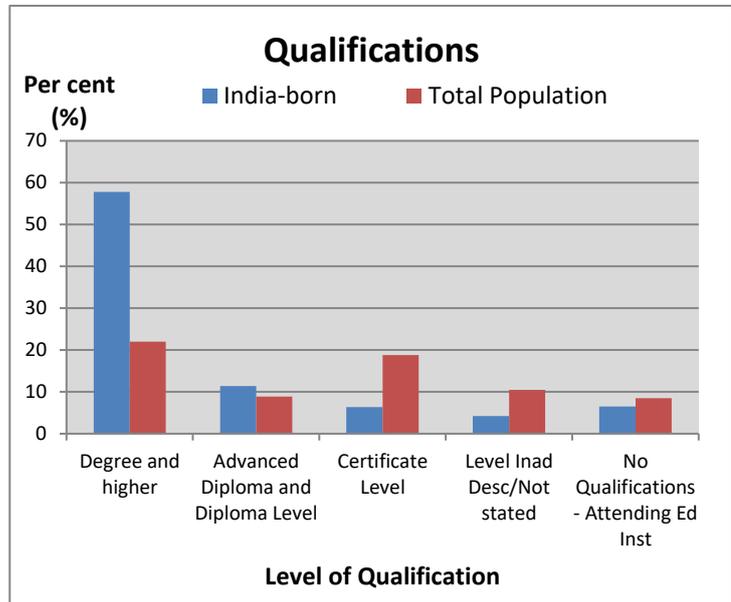
At the time of the 2016 Census, the median Individual Weekly Income for the India-born in Australia aged 15 years and over was \$785, compared with \$615 for all overseas-born and \$688 for all Australian-born.

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

Qualifications

At the 2016 Census, 79.8 per cent of the India-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 India-born aged 15 years and over, 6.5 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.

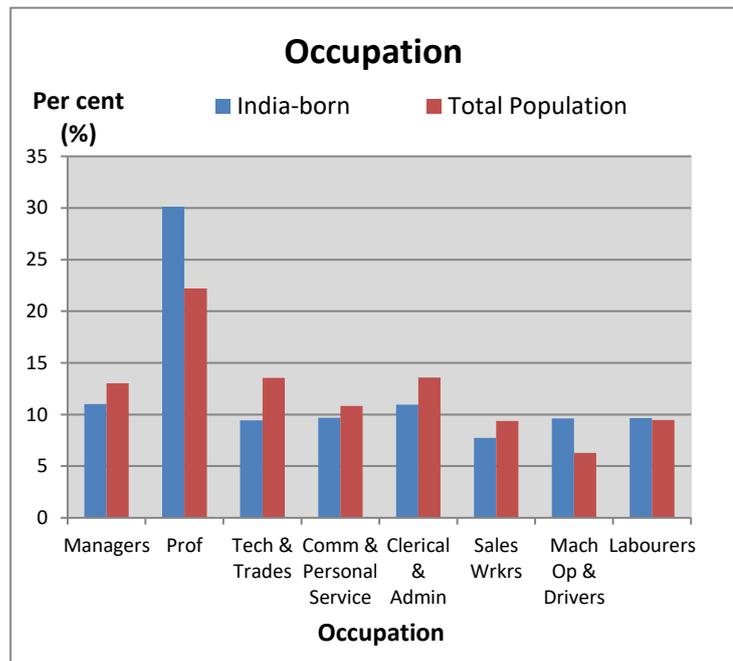


Employment

Among India-born people aged 15 years and over, the participation rate in the labour force was 77.3 per cent and the unemployment rate was 8.0 per cent.

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

Of the 293,300 India-born who were employed, 50.6 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.