



Iran-born Community Information Summary

Historical Background

Early migrants from Iran were mostly oil service workers. The 1979 Iranian revolution and subsequent establishment of the Islamic Republic of Iran, followed by the war between Iran and Iraq (1980-88) resulted in an increase of migration from Iran to Australia.

In 1981, Australia began a special humanitarian assistance program targeted to protect religious minorities (such as Bahá'ís or Jews) from religious persecution.

During the late 1980s and early 1990s many professionals started to leave Iran for Australia due to economic and political hardship. When this conflict concluded, migration decreased but remained steady throughout the 1990s and 2000s with many Iranians migrating under the Skilled and Family Streams of the Migration Program.

The number of Iran-born people in Australia has been steadily increasing. The 1996 Census recorded 16,270 Iran-born people in Australia, which increased to 18,798 in 2001, 22,546 in 2006 and 34,454 in 2011.

Iranians have continued to migrate to Australia across all migration streams.

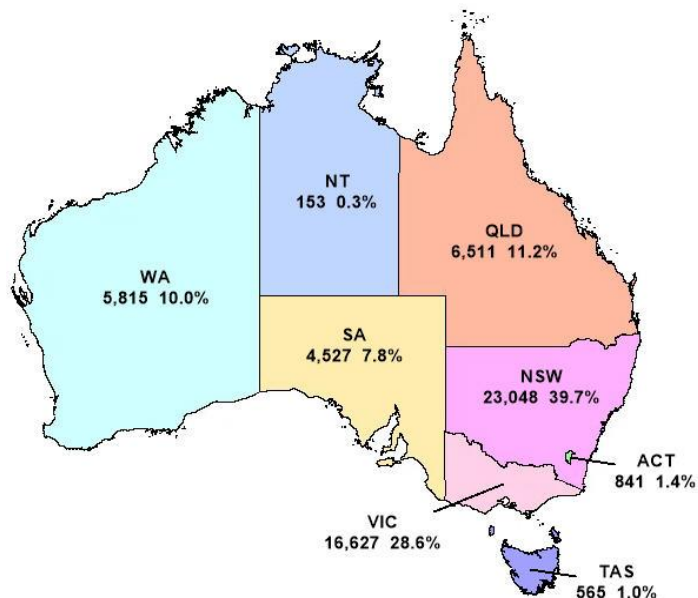
The Iran-born are primarily Shi'a Muslims, while others are of the Baha'i and Christian faiths.

2016 Census

Geographic Distribution

The latest Census in 2016 recorded 58,112 Iran-born people in Australia, an increase of 68.7 per cent from the 2011 Census.

The 2016 distribution by State and Territory showed New South Wales had the largest number with 23,048 followed by Victoria (16,627), Queensland (6,511) and Western Australia (5,815).

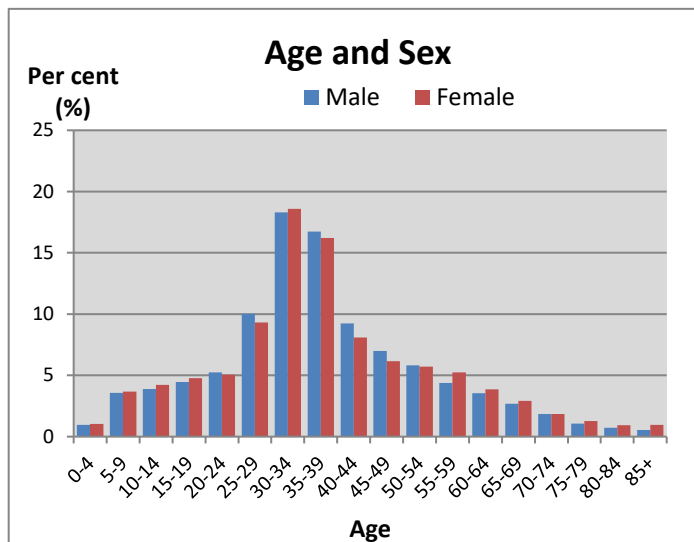


Age and Sex

The median age of the Iran-born in 2016 was 35 years compared with 44 years for all overseas-born and 38 years for the total Australian population.

The age distribution showed 8.7 per cent were aged 0-14 years, 9.8 per cent were 15-24 years, 53.3 per cent were 25-44 years, 20.9 per cent were 45-64 years and 7.3 per cent were 65 years and over.

Of the Iran-born in Australia, there were 31,609 males (54.4 per cent) and 26,497 females (45.6 per cent). The sex ratio was 119 males per 100 females.

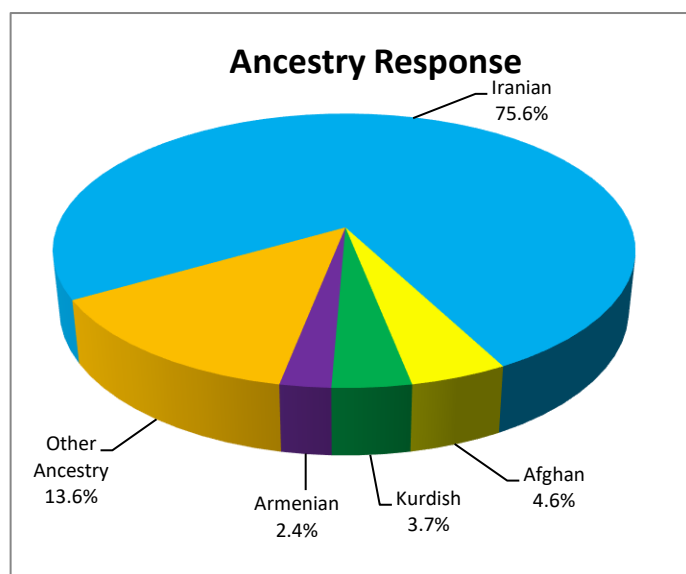


Ancestry

In the 2016 Census, the top ancestry responses* that Iran-born people reported were Iranian (45,972), Afghan (2,795) and Kurdish (2,270).

In the 2016 Census, Australians reported over 300 different ancestries. Of the total ancestry responses* 62,793 responses were towards Iranian ancestry.

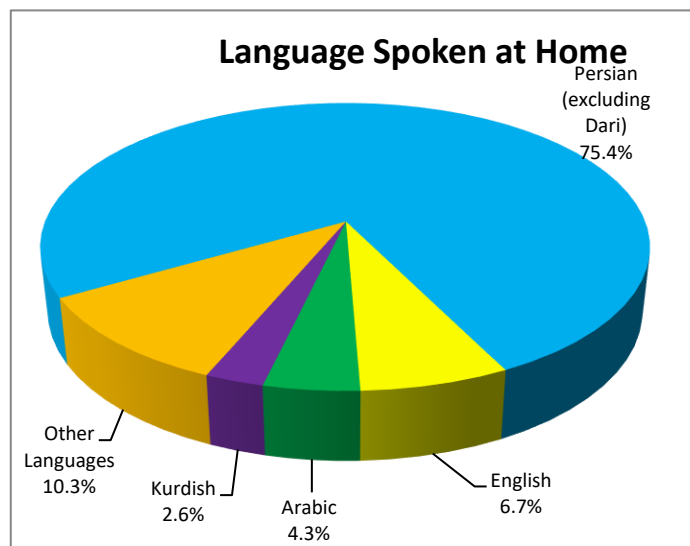
* At the 2016 Census up to two responses per person were allowed for the Ancestry question, therefore there can be more responses than total persons.



Language

The main languages spoken at home by Iran-born people in Australia were Persian (excluding Dari) (43,803), English (3,876) and Arabic (2,482).

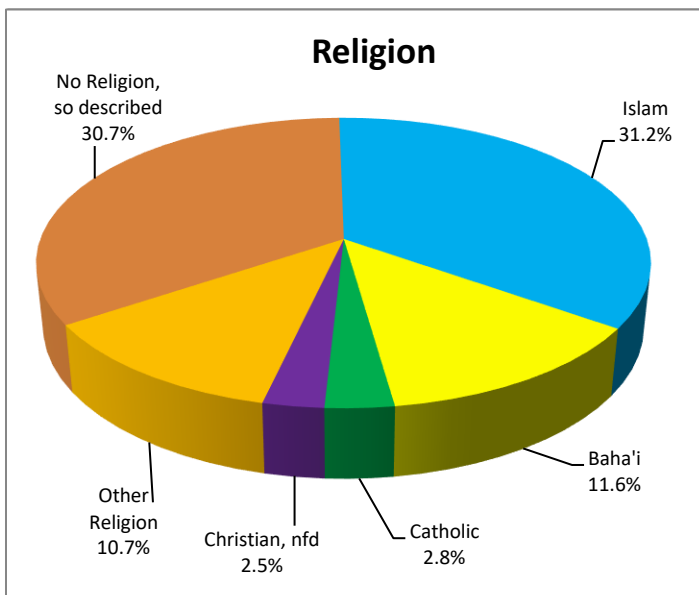
Of the 53,906 Iran-born who spoke a language other than English at home, 81.5 per cent spoke English very well or well, and 17.9 per cent spoke English not well or not at all.



Religion

At the 2016 Census the major religious affiliations amongst Iran-born were Islam (18,111), Baha'i (6,722) and Catholic (1,607).

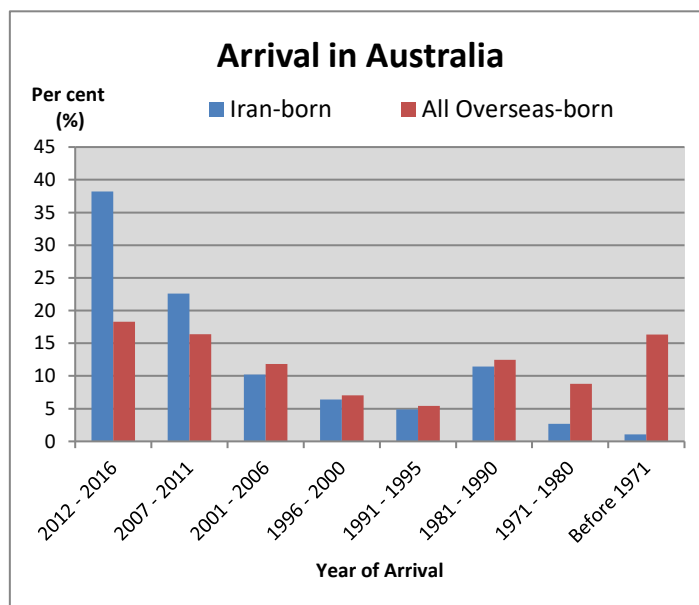
Of the Iran-born, 30.7 per cent stated 'No Religion' which was higher than that of the total Australian population (29.6 per cent), and 10.2 per cent did not state a religion.



Arrival

Compared to 61.8 per cent of the total overseas-born population, 36.7 per cent of the Iran-born people in Australia arrived in Australia prior to 2007.

Among the total Iran-born in Australia at the 2016 Census, 22.6 per cent arrived between 2007 and 2011 and 38.2 per cent arrived between 2012 and 2016.



Median Income

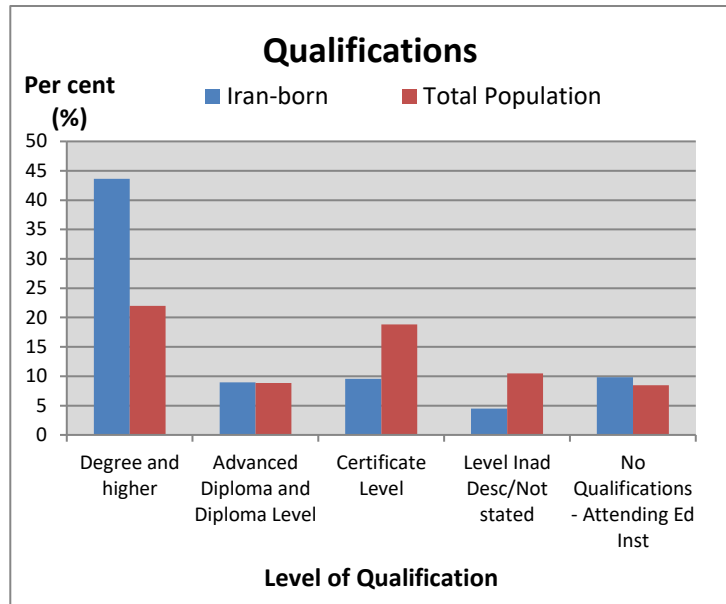
At the time of the 2016 Census, the median Individual Weekly Income for the Iran-born in Australia aged 15 years and over was \$497, compared with \$615 for all overseas-born and \$688 for all Australian-born.

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

Qualifications

At the 2016 Census, 66.7 per cent of the Iran-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 Iran-born aged 15 years and over, 9.9 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.

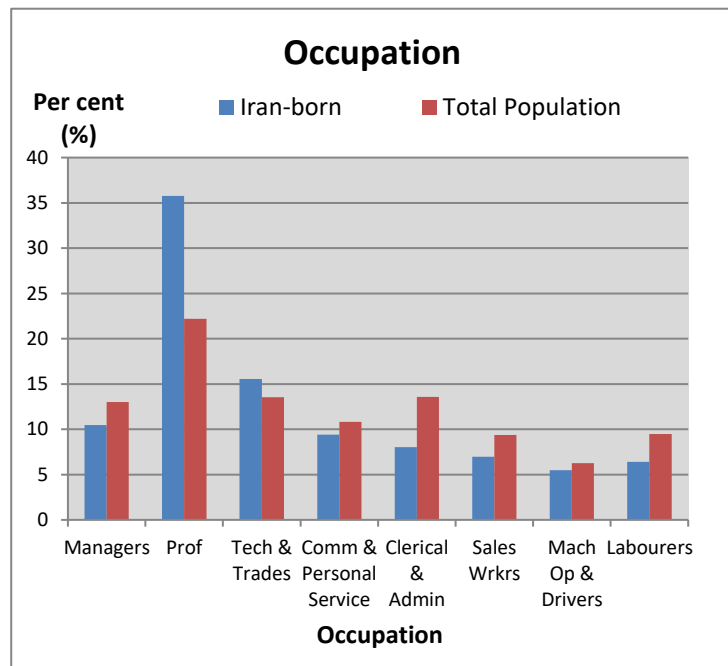


Employment

Among Iran-born people aged 15 years and over, the participation rate in the labour force was 62.2 per cent and the unemployment rate was 17.6 per cent.

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

Of the 27,007 Iran-born who were employed, 61.8 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.