



# Japan-born Community Information Summary

## Historical Background

Until 1866, it was a capital offence for Japanese to leave Japan. The first recorded Japan-born settler arrived in Australia in 1871, Mr Sakuragawa Rikinosuke who was an acrobat who settled in Queensland.

During the 1880s and 1890s some Japan-born migrants worked as crew for Australian pearlers in northern Australia. Others worked in the Queensland sugarcane industry, or were employed in service roles. A Japanese Consulate was established in Townsville with one of its main tasks being to monitor the welfare of the Japanese workers in the region.

Many Japan-born continued to come to Australia on temporary entry permits under indentured work schemes, despite the introduction of immigration restrictions. The 1911 Census recorded 3281 Japan-born males and 208 females in Australia.

With the outbreak of war in the Pacific in 1941, most of the Japan-born in Australia were interned and then deported when the war ended. At the end of the war only 74 Japan-born nationals and their children were permitted to remain in Australia, mostly in Victoria.

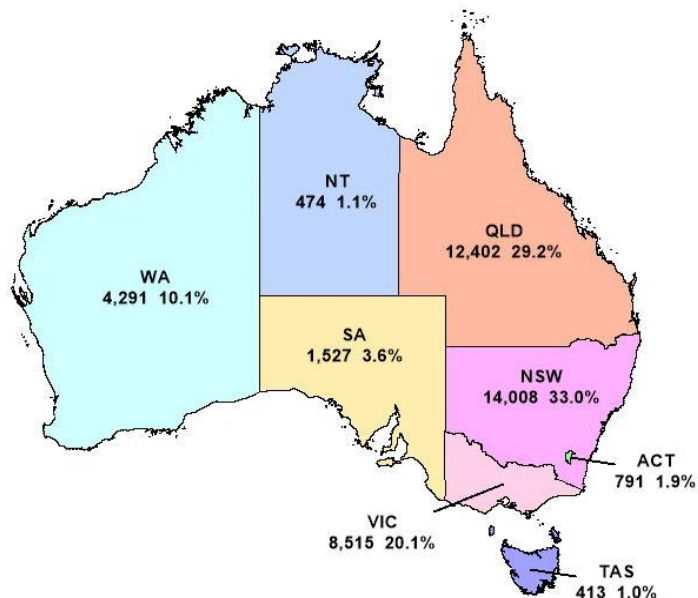
Immigration from Japan remained banned until 1949, however during the next five years numbers increased with the arrival of over 500 Japan-born war brides. Most Japan-born migrants arrived in Australia from 1981 and numbers have been steadily increasing since then.

## 2016 Census

### Geographic Distribution

The latest Census in 2016 recorded 42,421 Japan-born people in Australia, an increase of 19.9 per cent from the 2011 Census.

The 2016 distribution by State and Territory showed New South Wales had the largest number with 14,008 followed by Queensland (12,402), Victoria (8,515) and Western Australia (4,291).

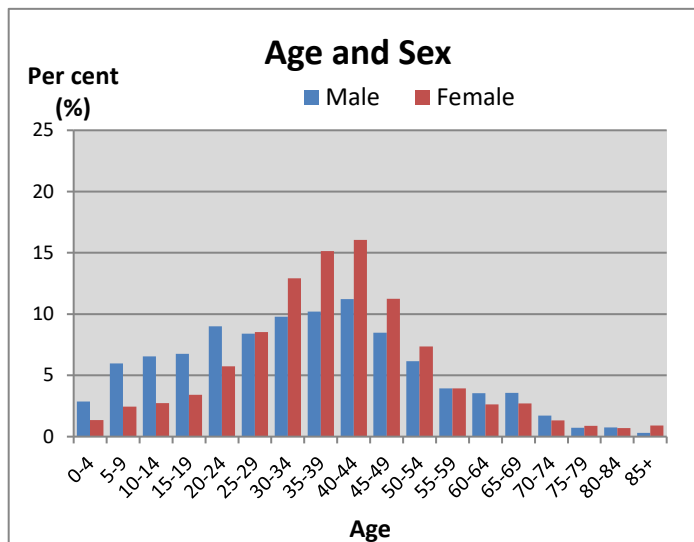


## Age and Sex

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

The age distribution showed 9.3 per cent were aged 0-14 years, 11.2 per cent were 15-24 years, 48.5 per cent were 25-44 years, 24.2 per cent were 45-64 years and 6.7 per cent were 65 years and over.

Of the Japan-born in Australia, there were 13,431 males (31.7 per cent) and 28,992 females (68.3 per cent). The sex ratio was 46 males per 100 females.

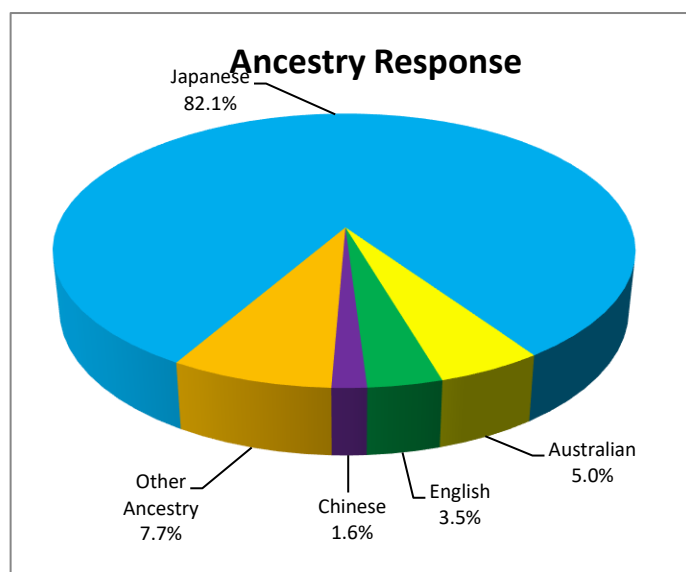


## Ancestry

In the 2016 Census, the top ancestry responses\* that Japan-born people reported were Japanese (38,853), Australian (2,368) and English (1,673).

In the 2016 Census, Australians reported over 300 different ancestries. Of the total ancestry responses\* 65,708 responses were towards Japanese ancestry.

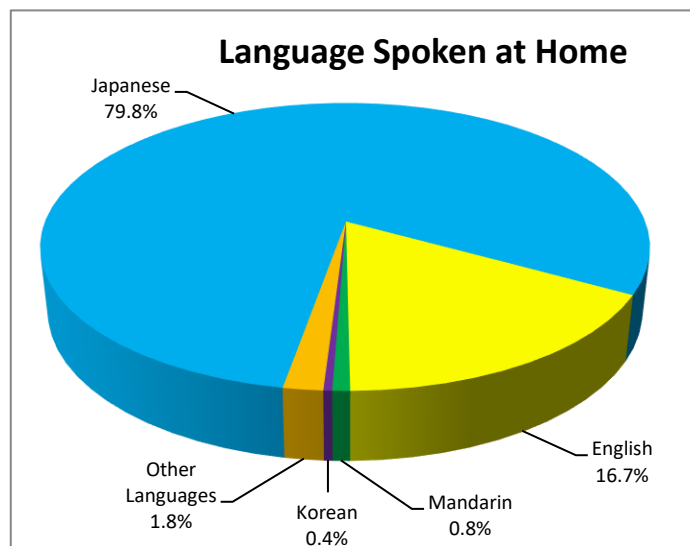
\* At the 2016 Census up to two responses per person were allowed for the Ancestry question, therefore there can be more responses than total persons.



## Language

The main languages spoken at home by Japan-born people in Australia were Japanese (33,869), English (7,098) and Mandarin (331).

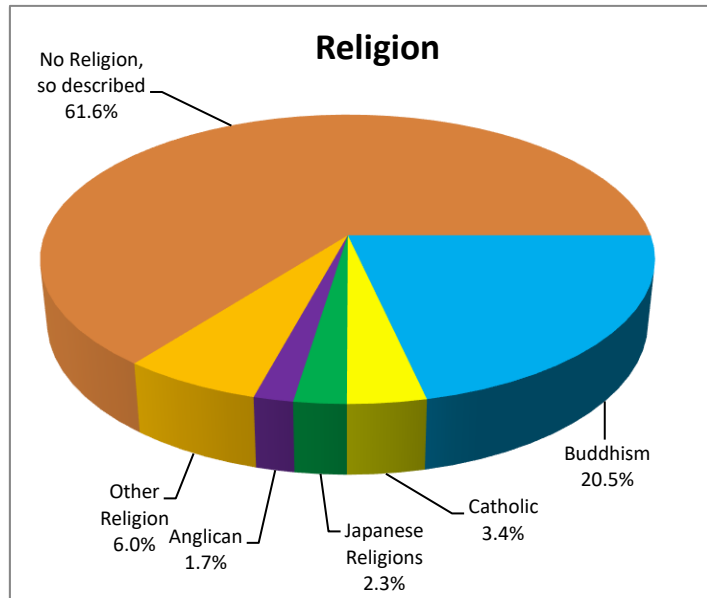
Of the 35,232 Japan-born who spoke a language other than English at home, 80.9 per cent spoke English very well or well, and 18.6 per cent spoke English not well or not at all.



## Religion

At the 2016 Census the major religious affiliations amongst Japan-born were Buddhism (8,676), Catholic (1,431) and Japanese Religions (957).

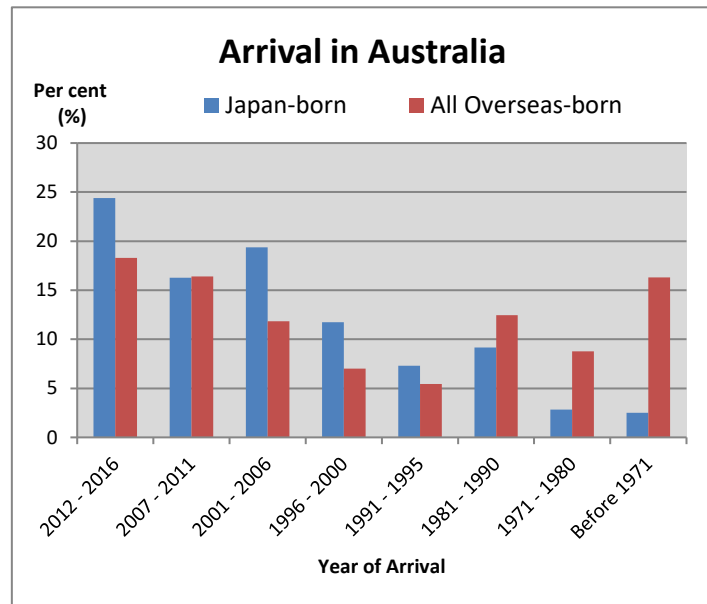
Of the Japan-born, 61.6 per cent stated 'No Religion' which was higher than that of the total Australian population (29.6 per cent), and 4.1 per cent did not state a religion.



## Arrival

Compared to 61.8 per cent of the total overseas-born population, 52.9 per cent of the Japan-born people in Australia arrived in Australia prior to 2007.

Among the total Japan-born in Australia at the 2016 Census, 16.3 per cent arrived between 2007 and 2011 and 24.4 per cent arrived between 2012 and 2016.



## Median Income

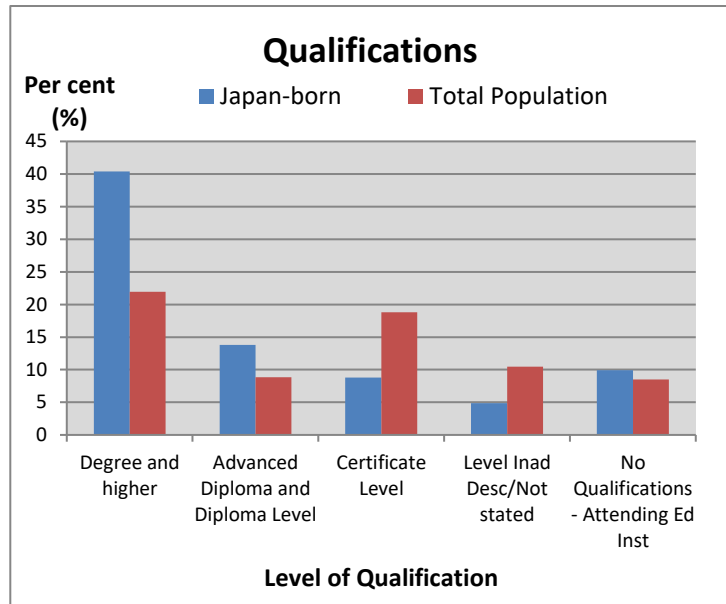
At the time of the 2016 Census, the median Individual Weekly Income for the Japan-born in Australia aged 15 years and over was \$498, compared with \$615 for all overseas-born and \$688 for all Australian-born.

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

### Qualifications

At the 2016 Census, 67.8 per cent of the Japan-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 Japan-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.

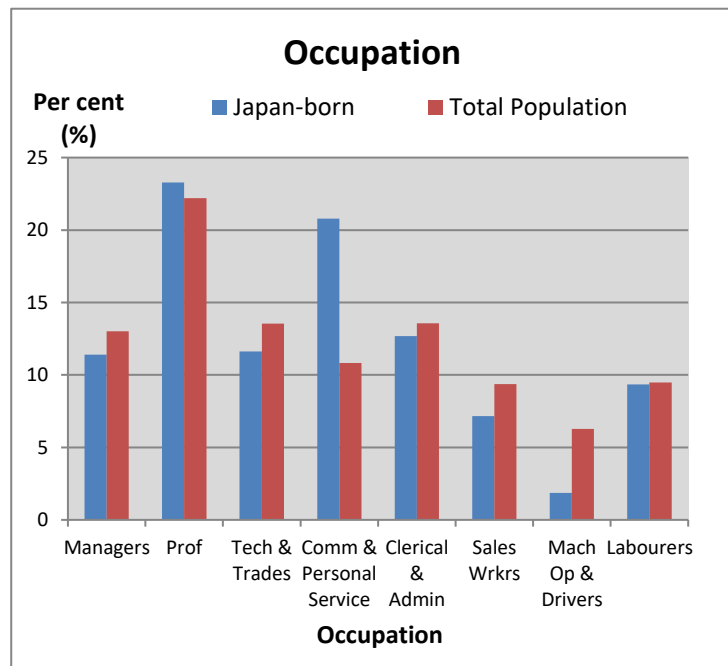


### Employment

Among Japan-born people aged 15 years and over, the participation rate in the labour force was 65.6 per cent and the unemployment rate was 6.7 per cent.

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

Of the 23,395 Japan-born who were employed, 46.3 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.