



Mauritius-born Community Information Summary

Historical Background

Mauritius has a long connection with Australia dating back to the establishment of a trading relationship after the Peace of Amiens (1802-03). Between 1820 and 1834, the Catholic Church in Australia was officially administered from Mauritius.

Early immigrants to Australia included Mauritian convicts, prospectors who came to the Victorian goldfields and skilled sugar workers who made a significant contribution to the development of the Queensland sugar industry. Sugar from Mauritius had been a major import to Australia in the 19th Century.

In the first half of the 20th Century, the number of Mauritius-born in Australia fell steadily, from 740 at the 1901 Census to 240 at the 1947 Census. With the end of World War II, significant migration to Australia recommenced. Most of those who migrated were Franco-Mauritians, as the immigration restrictions at the time excluded non-Europeans from entry to Australia and required that prospective settlers be 'at least 75 per cent European'.

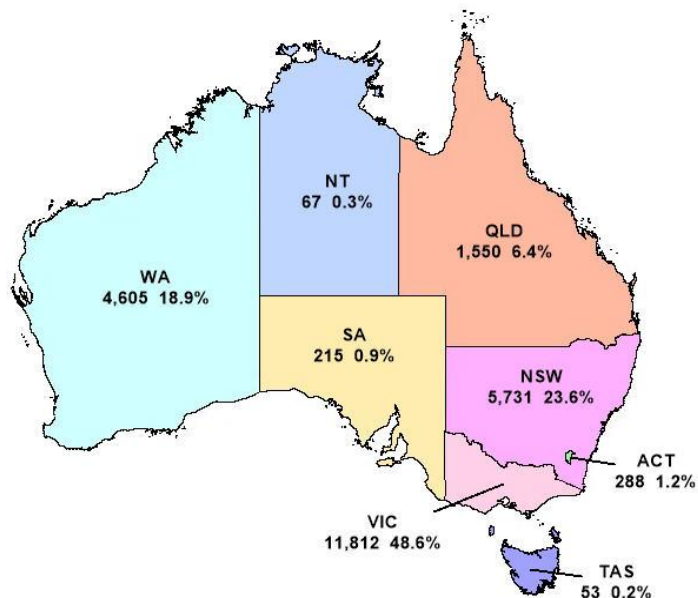
By the early 1960s, there were about 1580 Mauritians living in Australia. As Mauritius progressed towards universal suffrage, self-government and finally independence, some Mauritians found themselves in a less privileged position and were more inclined to emigrate. About 14,000 Mauritians left their homeland between 1966 and 1972, some migrating to Australia. Given the size of Mauritius, the number of Mauritians in Australia is substantial.

2016 Census

Geographic Distribution

The latest Census in 2016 recorded 24,329 Mauritius-born people in Australia, an increase of 4.5 per cent from the 2011 Census.

The 2016 distribution by State and Territory showed Victoria had the largest number with 11,812 followed by New South Wales (5,731), Western Australia (4,605) and Queensland (1,550).

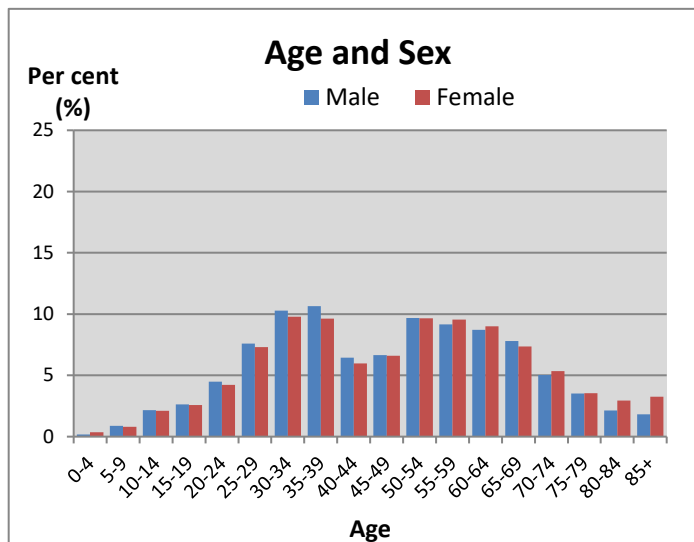


Age and Sex

The median age of the Mauritius-born in 2016 was 49 years compared with 44 years for all overseas-born and 38 years for the total Australian population.

The age distribution showed 3.3 per cent were aged 0-14 years, 7.0 per cent were 15-24 years, 33.9 per cent were 25-44 years, 34.5 per cent were 45-64 years and 21.4 per cent were 65 years and over.

Of the Mauritius-born in Australia, there were 11,878 males (48.8 per cent) and 12,450 females (51.2 per cent). The sex ratio was 95 males per 100 females.

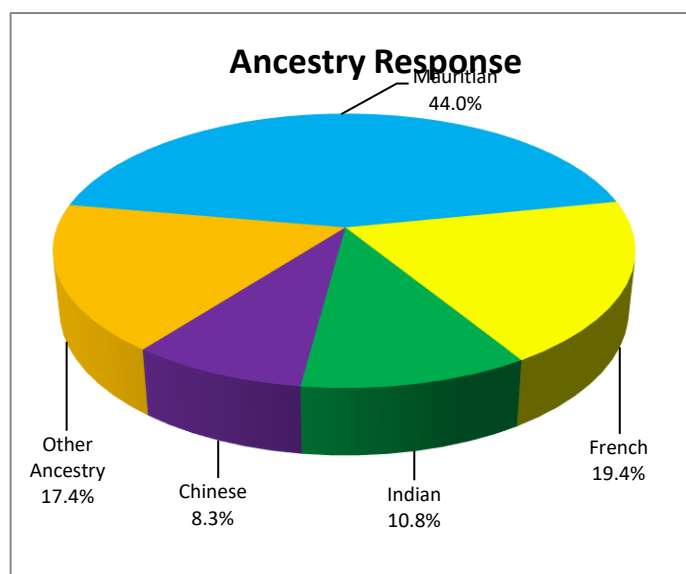


Ancestry

In the 2016 Census, the top ancestry responses* that Mauritius-born people reported were Mauritian (13,281), French (5,867) and Indian (3,267).

In the 2016 Census, Australians reported over 300 different ancestries. Of the total ancestry responses* 30,749 responses were towards Mauritian ancestry.

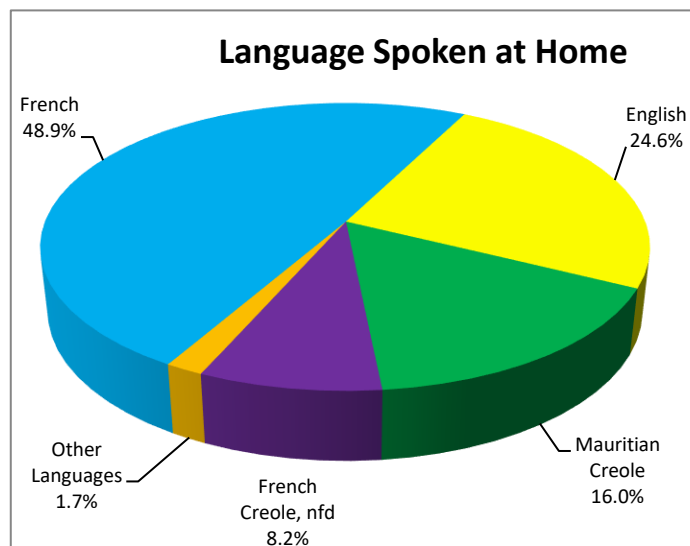
* At the 2016 Census up to two responses per person were allowed for the Ancestry question, therefore there can be more responses than total persons.



Language

The main languages spoken at home by Mauritius-born people in Australia were French (11,899), English (5,986) and Mauritian Creole (3,898).

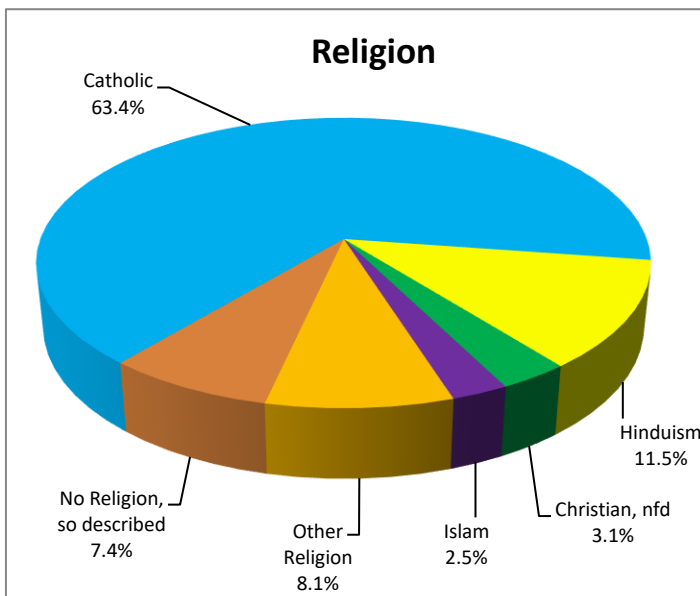
Of the 18,296 Mauritius-born who spoke a language other than English at home, 96.2 per cent spoke English very well or well, and 3.0 per cent spoke English not well or not at all.



Religion

At the 2016 Census the major religious affiliations amongst Mauritius-born were Catholic (15,429), Hinduism (2,796) and Christian, nfd (743).

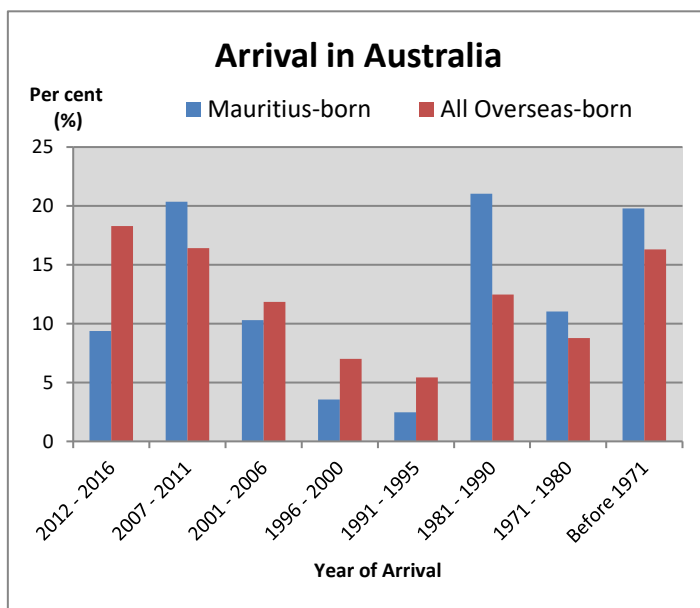
Of the Mauritius-born, 7.4 per cent stated 'No Religion' which was lower than that of the total Australian population (29.6 per cent), and 3.5 per cent did not state a religion.



Arrival

Compared to 61.8 per cent of the total overseas-born population, 68.2 per cent of the Mauritius-born people in Australia arrived in Australia prior to 2007.

Among the total Mauritius-born in Australia at the 2016 Census, 20.4 per cent arrived between 2007 and 2011 and 9.4 per cent arrived between 2012 and 2016.



Median Income

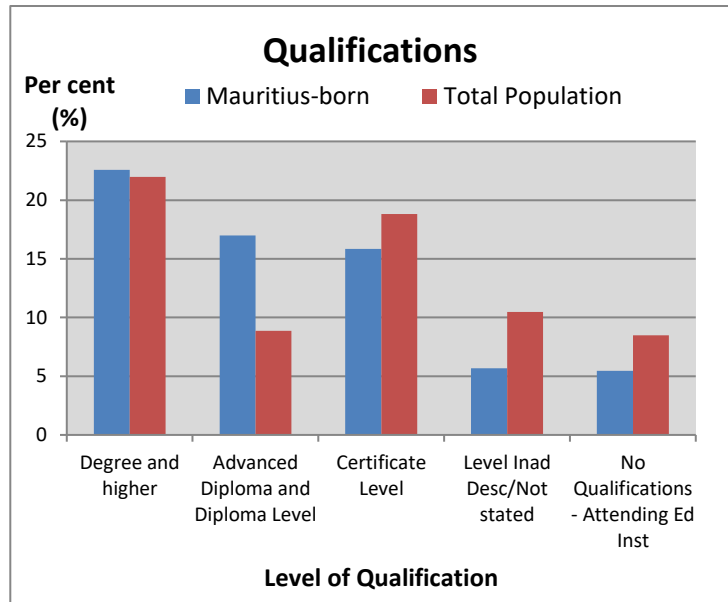
At the time of the 2016 Census, the median Individual Weekly Income for the Mauritius-born in Australia aged 15 years and over was \$707, compared with \$615 for all overseas-born and \$688 for all Australian-born.

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

Qualifications

At the 2016 Census, 61.1 per cent of the Mauritius-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 Mauritius-born aged 15 years and over, 5.5 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.

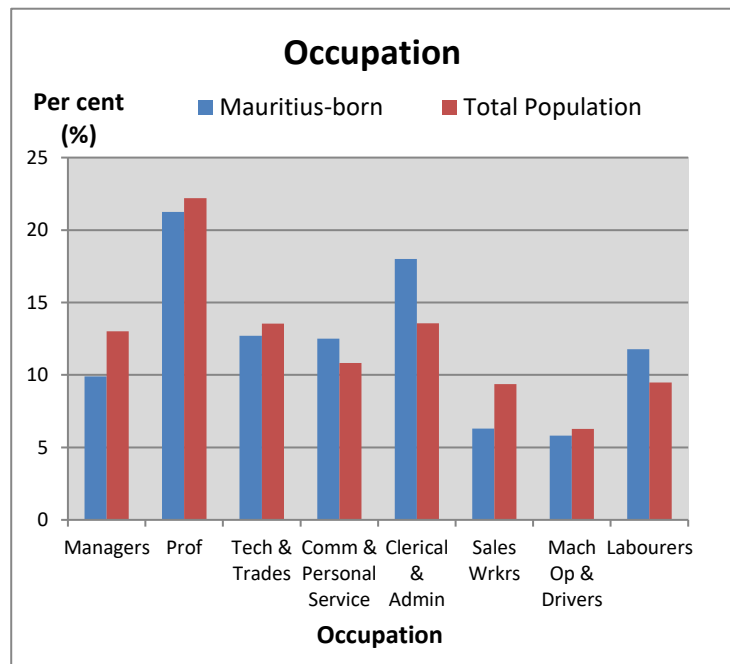


Employment

Among Mauritius-born people aged 15 years and over, the participation rate in the labour force was 65.7 per cent and the unemployment rate was 6.8 per cent.

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

Of the 14,236 Mauritius-born who were employed, 43.8 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.