



# Netherlands-born Community Information Summary

## Historical Background

In early 1606, William Jansz of Amsterdam, captain of the *Duyfken* (Little Dove) landed on Cape York Peninsula. A number of Dutch ships sank off the Western Australian coast in the 1600s and survivors reportedly established relationships with local Aborigines.

By 1644, Abel Tasman had completed a partial circumnavigation of Australia which revealed, for the first time, the size of the continent. The resulting incomplete map of New Holland was not superseded until the arrival of Captain Cook in 1770.

During the 1850s gold rushes, Dutch merchant ships continued to visit Australia but immigration from the Netherlands remained negligible. Until 1947, when the Census recorded 2174 Netherlands-born, the number of people arriving from the Netherlands was largely balanced by the number of departures. This trend has continued to the present day, apart from a period of high migration during the 1950s and 1960s.

After World War II, the Netherlands suffered economically and socially. With an already high population density, a relatively small land area and the highest birth rate in Europe, the Netherlands faced a severe housing crisis and rising unemployment, due mainly to the mechanisation of agriculture. Authorities actively supported emigration as a partial solution to the problem of overcrowding.

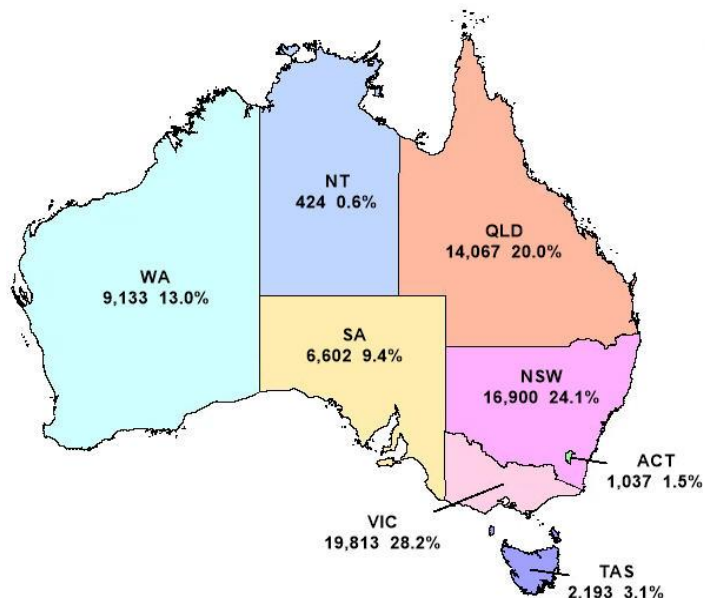
Meanwhile, Australia was looking for acceptable migrants from non-British sources. The hard-working rural Dutch, with their linguistic and cultural affinities with the Australian population, were seen to be ideal immigrants. Both the Australian and Netherlands governments contributed to the cost of passage, and the Australian Government accepted the responsibility for assisting settlement. As a result, during the 1950s Australia was the destination of 30 per cent of Dutch emigrants and the Netherlands-born became numerically the second largest non-British group. Their numbers peaked in 1961 at 102,130.

## 2016 Census

### Geographic Distribution

The latest Census in 2016 recorded 70,172 Netherlands-born people in Australia, a decrease of 7.7 per cent from the 2011 Census.

The 2016 distribution by State and Territory showed Victoria had the largest number with 19,813 followed by New South Wales (16,900), Queensland (14,067) and Western Australia (9,133).

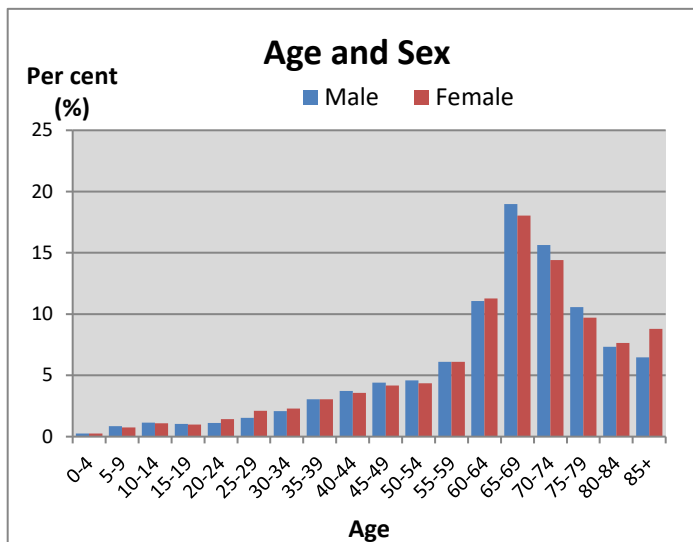


### Age and Sex

The median age of the Netherlands-born in 2016 was 67 years compared with 44 years for all overseas-born and 38 years for the total Australian population.

The age distribution showed 2.2 per cent were aged 0-14 years, 2.3 per cent were 15-24 years, 10.7 per cent were 25-44 years, 26.0 per cent were 45-64 years and 58.8 per cent were 65 years and over.

Of the Netherlands-born in Australia, there were 35,406 males (50.5 per cent) and 34,768 females (49.5 per cent). The sex ratio was 102 males per 100 females.

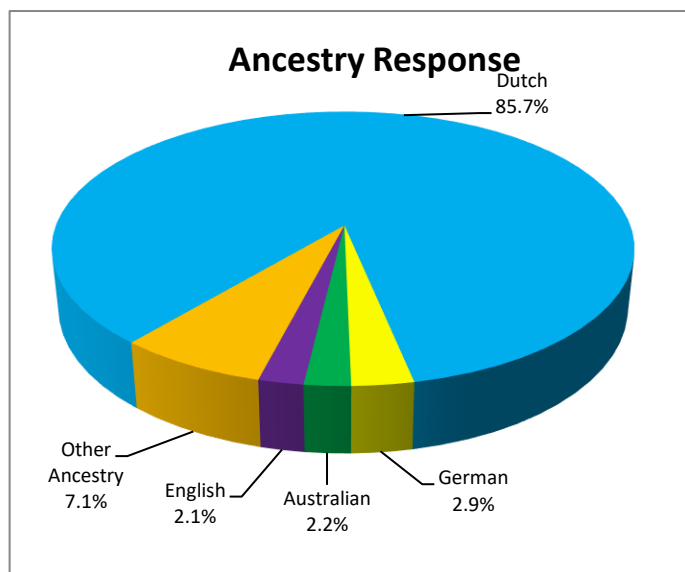


### Ancestry

In the 2016 Census, the top ancestry responses\* that Netherlands-born people reported were Dutch (65,634), German (2,242) and Australian (1,680).

In the 2016 Census, Australians reported over 300 different ancestries. Of the total ancestry responses\* 339,549 responses were towards Dutch ancestry.

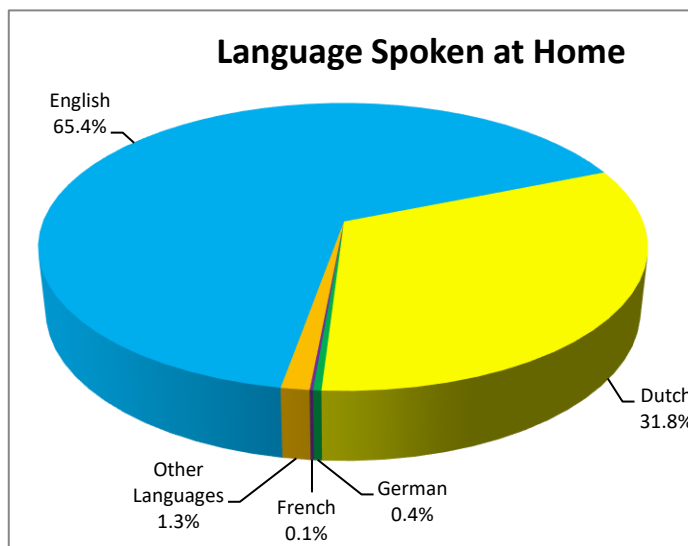
\* At the 2016 Census up to two responses per person were allowed for the Ancestry question, therefore there can be more responses than total persons.



### Language

The main languages spoken at home by Netherlands-born people in Australia were English (45,913), Dutch (22,298) and German (256).

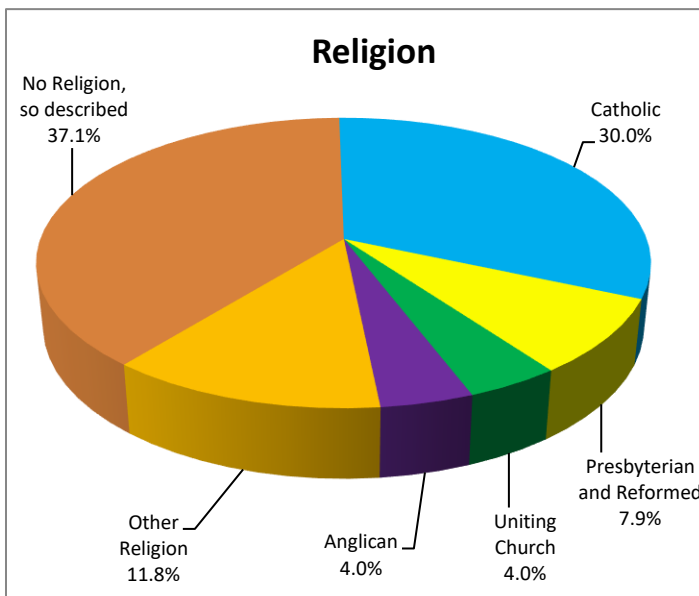
Of the 23,914 Netherlands-born who spoke a language other than English at home, 97.3 per cent spoke English very well or well, and 1.7 per cent spoke English not well or not at all.



## Religion

At the 2016 Census the major religious affiliations amongst Netherlands-born were Catholic (21,037), Presbyterian and Reformed (5,568) and Uniting Church (2,819).

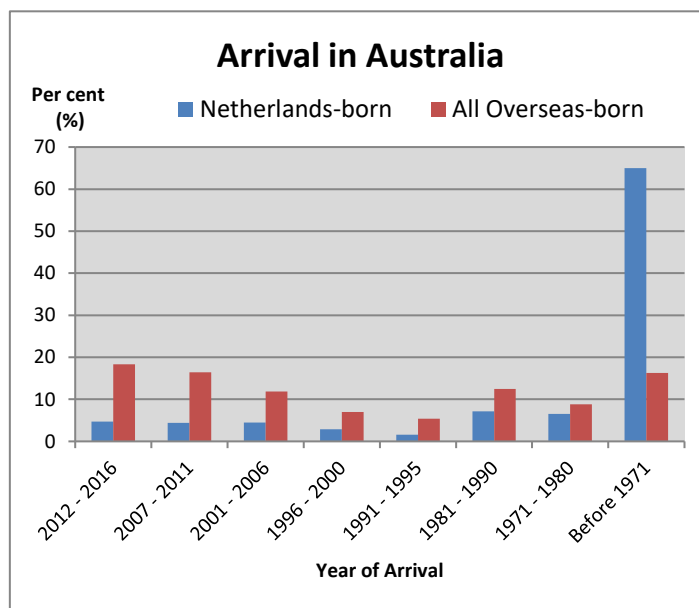
Of the Netherlands-born, 37.1 per cent stated 'No Religion' which was higher than that of the total Australian population (29.6 per cent), and 4.9 per cent did not state a religion.



## Arrival

Compared to 61.8 per cent of the total overseas-born population, 87.6 per cent of the Netherlands-born people in Australia arrived in Australia prior to 2007.

Among the total Netherlands-born in Australia at the 2016 Census, 4.4 per cent arrived between 2007 and 2011 and 4.7 per cent arrived between 2012 and 2016.



## Median Income

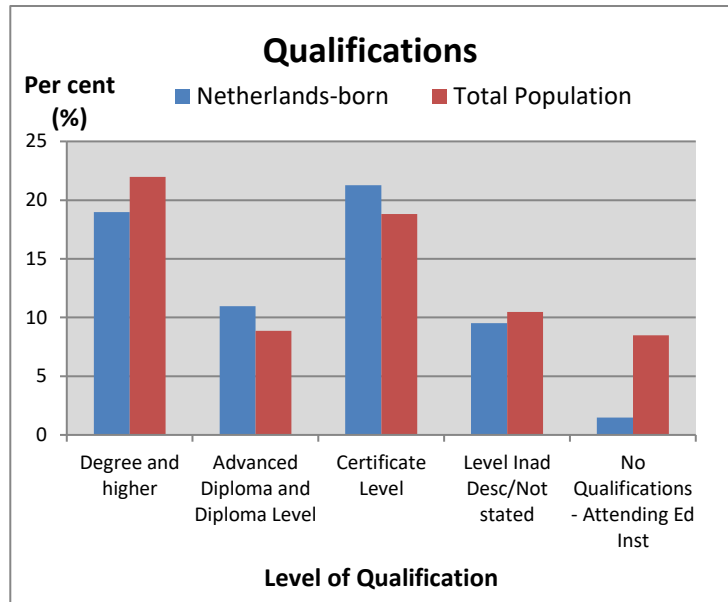
At the time of the 2016 Census, the median Individual Weekly Income for the Netherlands-born in Australia aged 15 years and over was \$489, compared with \$615 for all overseas-born and \$688 for all Australian-born.

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

## Qualifications

At the 2016 Census, 60.7 per cent of the Netherlands-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 Netherlands-born aged 15 years and over, 1.5 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.

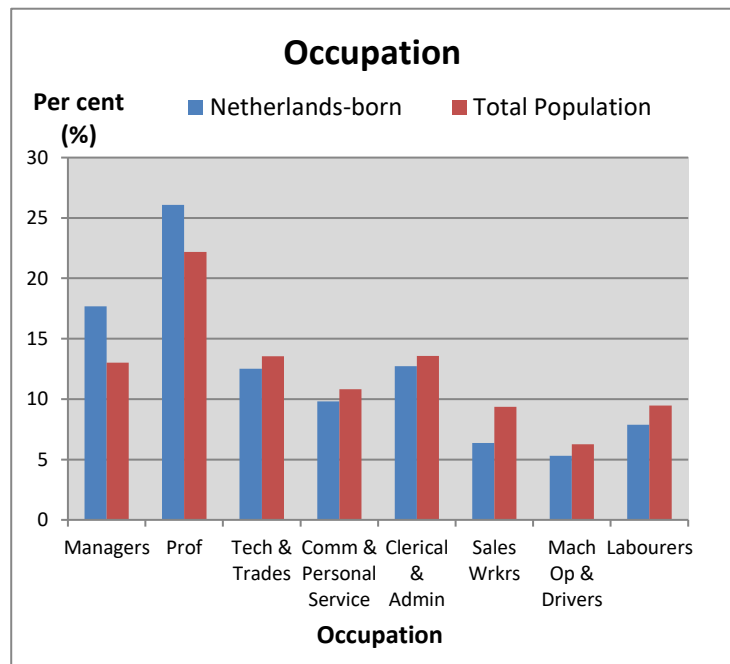


## Employment

Among Netherlands-born people aged 15 years and over, the participation rate in the labour force was 37.4 per cent and the unemployment rate was 4.6 per cent.

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

Of the 24,005 Netherlands-born who were employed, 56.3 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.