Saudi Arabia-born
Community Information Summary

Historical Background

The Saudi Arabia-born are relatively new migrants to Australia. Migrant numbers from Saudi Arabia continue to be small and most arrived under the Skilled Migration Program. However, more than half of the community comprised of students who were in Australia temporarily.

2016 Census

Geographic Distribution

The latest Census in 2016 recorded 12,580 Saudi Arabia-born people in Australia, an increase of 19.6 per cent from the 2011 Census.

The 2016 distribution by State and Territory showed Victoria had the largest number with 4,401 followed by New South Wales (3,566), Queensland (1,806) and Western Australia (1,195).
**Age and Sex**

The median age of the Saudi Arabia-born in 2016 was 25 years compared with 44 years for all overseas-born and 38 years for the total Australian population.

The age distribution showed 26.5 per cent were aged 0-14 years, 22.1 per cent were 15-24 years, 48.9 per cent were 25-44 years, 2.3 per cent were 45-64 years and 0.2 per cent were 65 years and over.

Of the Saudi Arabia-born in Australia, there were 6,997 males (55.6 per cent) and 5,584 females (44.4 per cent). The sex ratio was 125 males per 100 females.

**Ancestry**

In the 2016 Census, the top ancestry responses* that Saudi Arabia-born people reported were Arab, nfd (3,825), Saudi Arabian (3,621) and Indian (1,211).

In the 2016 Census, Australians reported over 300 different ancestries. Of the total ancestry responses* 42,124 responses were towards Arab, nfd 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 Saudi Arabia-born people in Australia were Arabic (8,893), English (1,363) and Urdu (802).

Of the 11,190 Saudi Arabia-born who spoke a language other than English at home, 76.2 per cent spoke English very well or well, and 23.4 per cent spoke English not well or not at all.
Religion

At the 2016 Census the major religious affiliations amongst Saudi Arabia-born were Islam (9,840), Catholic (955) and Oriental Orthodox (155).

Of the Saudi Arabia-born, 4.1 per cent stated 'No Religion' which was lower than that of the total Australian population (29.6 per cent), and 3.4 per cent did not state a religion.

Arrival

Compared to 61.8 per cent of the total overseas-born population, 16.8 per cent of the Saudi Arabia-born people in Australia arrived in Australia prior to 2007.

Among the total Saudi Arabia-born in Australia at the 2016 Census, 20.5 per cent arrived between 2007 and 2011 and 57.9 per cent arrived between 2012 and 2016.

Median Income

At the time of the 2016 Census, the median Individual Weekly Income for the Saudi Arabia-born in Australia aged 15 years and over was $678, 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, 64.7 per cent of the Saudi Arabia-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 Saudi Arabia-born aged 15 years and over, 25.6 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 Saudi Arabia-born people aged 15 years and over, the participation rate in the labour force was 30.6 per cent and the unemployment rate was 19.7 per cent.

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

Of the 2,266 Saudi Arabia-born who were employed, 54.6 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.

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