



# Slovenia-born Community Information Summary

## Historical Background

One of the first known Slovenians to travel to Australia was Matija Kliner, who worked on board the frigate SMS Novara of the Austro-Hungarian Navy during its 1857-59 circumnavigation of the world. The vessel docked at Sydney Harbour in November 1858.

Despite the Australian gold rushes at the time, most Slovenes preferred to seek new lives in Western Europe or the United States of America.

Slovenes began making their way to Australia in the 1920s when the United States of America imposed an immigration quota.

Mass migration to Australia commenced after 1948 with political refugees escaping the post-war regime in Yugoslavia, and continued during the 1950s and 1960s. Many came from the Littoral region, most of which had been part of Italy from 1920 until after World War II.

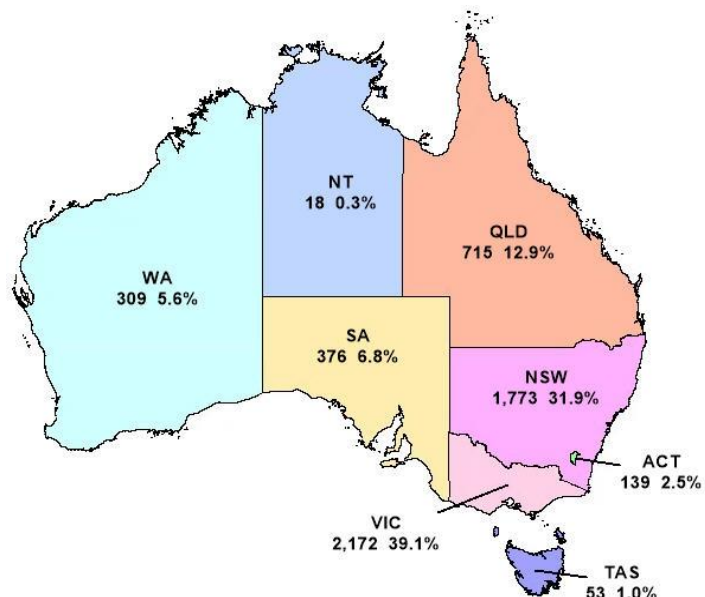
Although a small number continue to arrive still today, there has been no significant migration by Slovenes since 1975. Independence from the former Yugoslavia in 1991 and accession to the European Union in 2004 have presented Slovenes with opportunities closer to home.

## 2016 Census

### *Geographic Distribution*

The latest Census in 2016 recorded 5,557 Slovenia-born people in Australia, a decrease of 8.9 per cent from the 2011 Census.

The 2016 distribution by State and Territory showed Victoria had the largest number with 2,172 followed by New South Wales (1,773), Queensland (715) and South Australia (376).

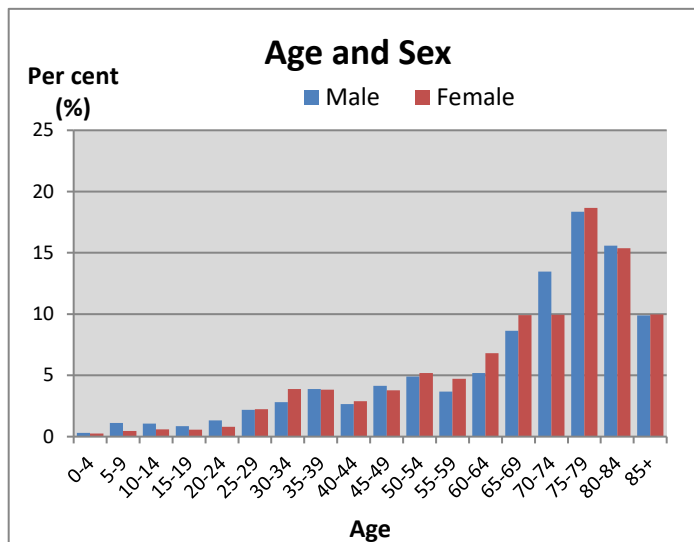


## Age and Sex

The median age of the Slovenia-born in 2016 was 72 years compared with 44 years for all overseas-born and 38 years for the total Australian population.

The age distribution showed 1.7 per cent were aged 0-14 years, 1.9 per cent were 15-24 years, 12.1 per cent were 25-44 years, 19.2 per cent were 45-64 years and 65.2 per cent were 65 years and over.

Of the Slovenia-born in Australia, there were 2,696 males (48.5 per cent) and 2,866 females (51.6 per cent). The sex ratio was 94 males per 100 females.

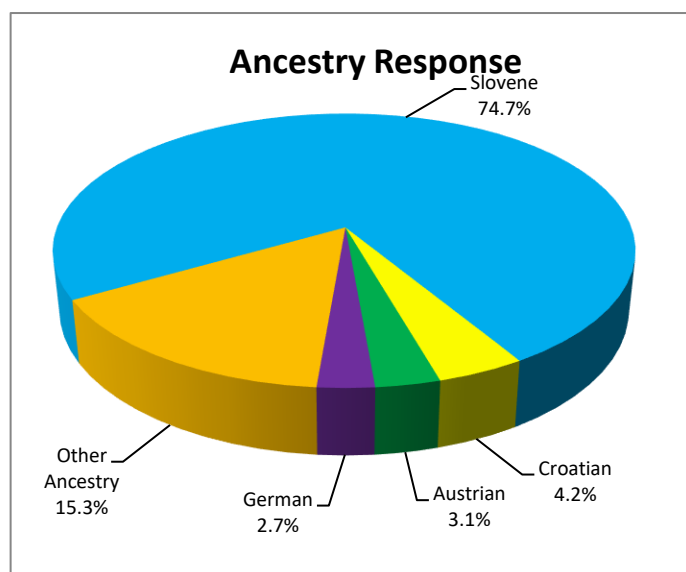


## Ancestry

In the 2016 Census, the top ancestry responses\* that Slovenia-born people reported were Slovene (4,534), Croatian (256) and Austrian (186).

In the 2016 Census, Australians reported over 300 different ancestries. Of the total ancestry responses\* 17,862 responses were towards Slovene ancestry.

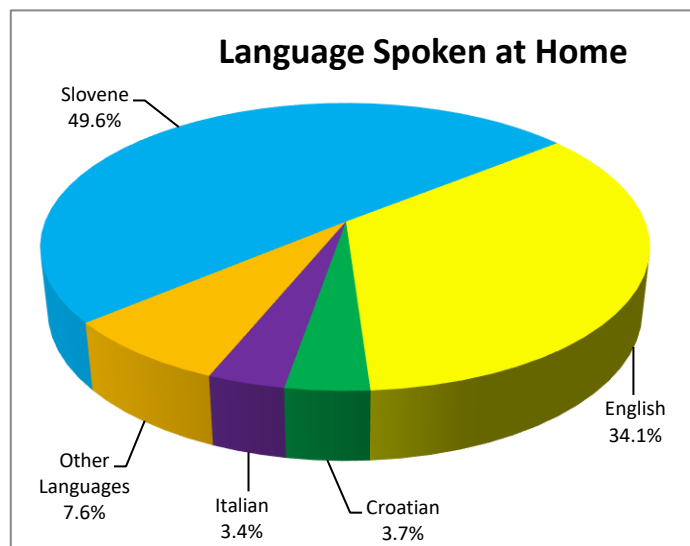
\* At the 2016 Census up to two responses per person were allowed for the Ancestry question, therefore there can be more responses than total persons.



## Language

The main languages spoken at home by Slovenia-born people in Australia were Slovene (2,759), English (1,897) and Croatian (207).

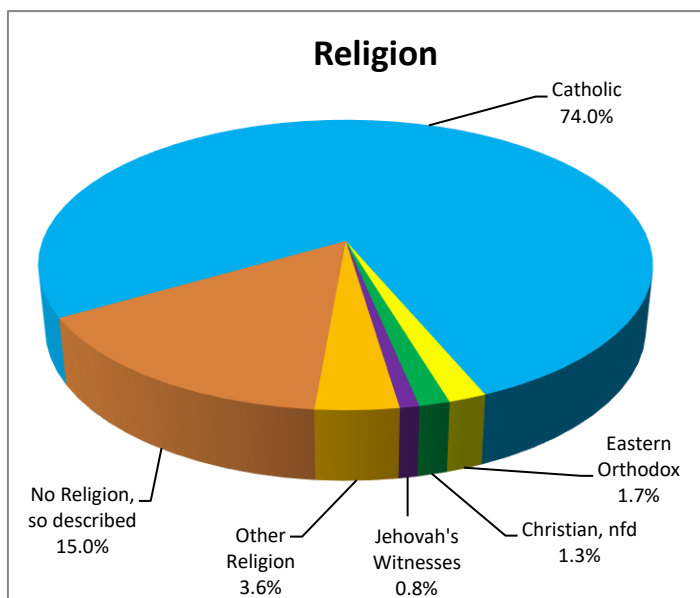
Of the 3,629 Slovenia-born who spoke a language other than English at home, 91.4 per cent spoke English very well or well, and 7.2 per cent spoke English not well or not at all.



## Religion

At the 2016 Census the major religious affiliations amongst Slovenia-born were Catholic (4,114), Eastern Orthodox (92) and Christian, nfd (74).

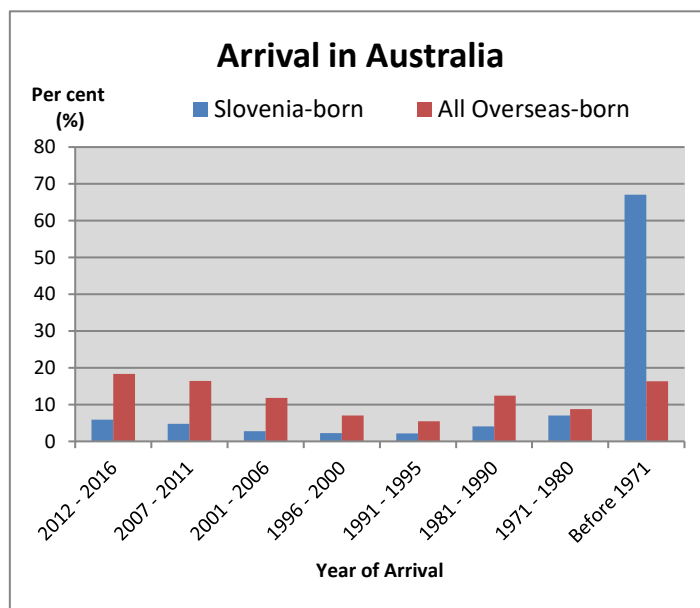
Of the Slovenia-born, 15.0 per cent stated 'No Religion' which was lower than that of the total Australian population (29.6 per cent), and 3.4 per cent did not state a religion.



## Arrival

Compared to 61.8 per cent of the total overseas-born population, 85.4 per cent of the Slovenia-born people in Australia arrived in Australia prior to 2007.

Among the total Slovenia-born in Australia at the 2016 Census, 4.8 per cent arrived between 2007 and 2011 and 5.9 per cent arrived between 2012 and 2016.



## Median Income

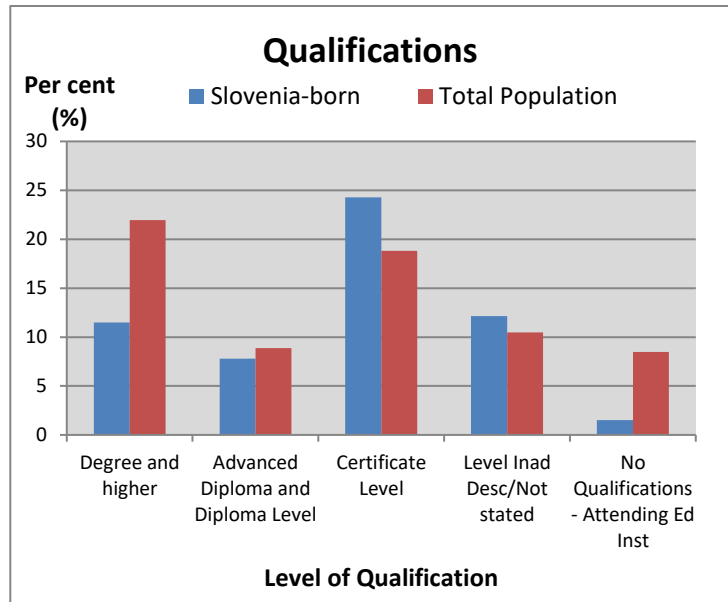
At the time of the 2016 Census, the median Individual Weekly Income for the Slovenia-born in Australia aged 15 years and over was \$431, compared with \$615 for all overseas-born and \$688 for all Australian-born.

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

## Qualifications

At the 2016 Census, 55.7 per cent of the Slovenia-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 Slovenia-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.

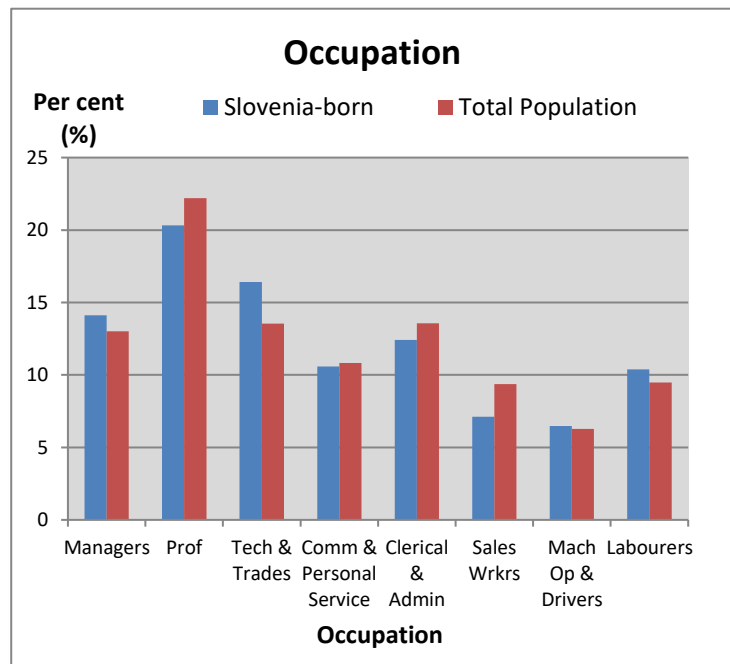


## Employment

Among Slovenia-born people aged 15 years and over, the participation rate in the labour force was 31.0 per cent and the unemployment rate was 5.7 per cent.

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

Of the 1,530 Slovenia-born who were employed, 50.8 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.