Taiwan-born
Community Information Summary

Historical Background

In the 1980s, Australia targeted Taiwan for business migrants and a number of Taiwanese migrants entered Australia under the Business Migration Program. The Taiwan-born population rose from 2056 in 1986 to 12,528 in 1991.

While the early business migrants were equipped with capital, business and industrial expertise, they initially experienced difficulties in establishing businesses in Australia due to the different business, marketing and industrial relations environment. Since that time, Taiwan has been a regular source of skilled migrants to Australia. Half of the Taiwan-born have arrived from 2006 onwards.

2016 Census

Geographic Distribution

The latest Census in 2016 recorded 46,822 Taiwan-born people in Australia, an increase of 63.6 per cent from the 2011 Census.

The 2016 distribution by State and Territory showed Queensland had the largest number with 15,592 followed by New South Wales (13,493), Victoria (9,900) and Western Australia (4,670).
**Age and Sex**

The median age of the Taiwan-born in 2016 was 31 years compared with 44 years for all overseas-born and 38 years for the total Australian population.

The age distribution showed 4.0 per cent were aged 0-14 years, 12.8 per cent were 15-24 years, 62.1 per cent were 25-44 years, 16.0 per cent were 45-64 years and 5.1 per cent were 65 years and over.

Of the Taiwan-born in Australia, there were 19,293 males (41.2 per cent) and 27,525 females (58.8 per cent). The sex ratio was 70 males per 100 females.

**Ancestry**

In the 2016 Census, the top ancestry responses* that Taiwan-born people reported were Chinese (32,413), Taiwanese (14,921) and English (848).

In the 2016 Census, Australians reported over 300 different ancestries. Of the total ancestry responses* 1,213,903 responses were towards Chinese 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 Taiwan-born people in Australia were Mandarin (42,076), English (2,403) and Min Nan (1,037).

Of the 44,302 Taiwan-born who spoke a language other than English at home, 66.2 per cent spoke English very well or well, and 33.4 per cent spoke English not well or not at all.
**Religion**

At the 2016 Census the major religious affiliations amongst Taiwan-born were Buddhism (10,401), Christian, nfd (1,491) and Catholic (1,234).

Of the Taiwan-born, 56.1 per cent stated 'No Religion' which was higher than that of the total Australian population (29.6 per cent), and 5.3 per cent did not state a religion.

**Arrival**

Compared to 61.8 per cent of the total overseas-born population, 43.9 per cent of the Taiwan-born people in Australia arrived in Australia prior to 2007.

Among the total Taiwan-born in Australia at the 2016 Census, 12.5 per cent arrived between 2007 and 2011 and 35.4 per cent arrived between 2012 and 2016.

**Median Income**

At the time of the 2016 Census, the median Individual Weekly Income for the Taiwan-born in Australia aged 15 years and over was $527, 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, 65.8 per cent of the Taiwan-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 Taiwan-born aged 15 years and over, 10.0 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 Taiwan-born people aged 15 years and over, the participation rate in the labour force was 68.2 per cent and the unemployment rate was 8.6 per cent.

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

Of the 27,891 Taiwan-born who were employed, 40.5 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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