



# Turkey-born Community Information Summary

## Historical Background

At the beginning of the nineteenth century, there were about 20 Ottoman Empire-born people in Australia. The number increased to 300 by the 1911 Census and remained low after the World War II. By 1966, the number had reached 2500.

In 1967, Australia and Turkey signed a bilateral agreement on assisted migration. This was an important step towards the easing of immigration restrictions. The Turkish represented the first 'Asian' migrants to settle in Australia on a large scale since 1901. They were also the first large Muslim population to settle in Australia.

In the initial years of the agreement, the majority of Turkish immigrants were unskilled and found employment as labourers and process workers in the manufacturing sector. There was an increase in Turkey-born nationals in Australia to 11,589 in the 1971 Census.

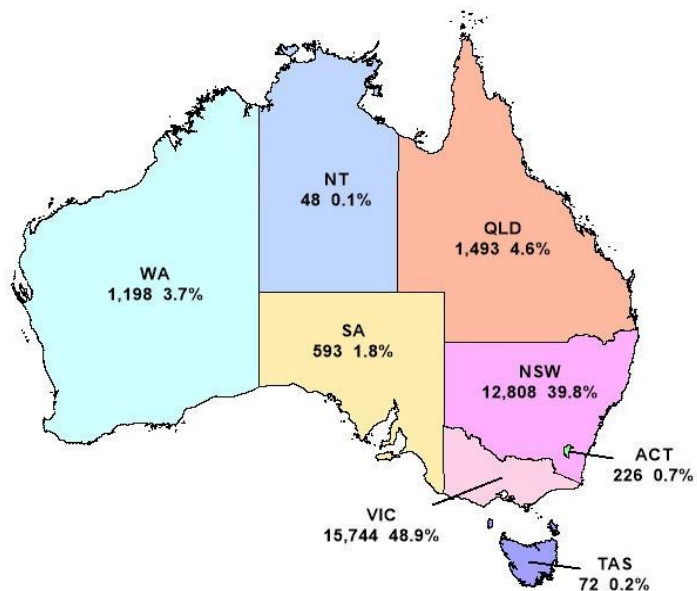
Immigration from Turkey to Australia declined in the first half of the 1980s but then resumed in the second half due to high inflation and unemployment in Turkey. Since then, migration from Turkey has declined, with most arriving under the Family Stream of the migration program with smaller numbers as general skilled migrants.

## 2016 Census

### Geographic Distribution

The latest Census in 2016 recorded 32,178 Turkey-born people in Australia, a decrease of 2.0 per cent from the 2011 Census.

The 2016 distribution by State and Territory showed Victoria had the largest number with 15,744 followed by New South Wales (12,808), Queensland (1,493) and Western Australia (1,198).

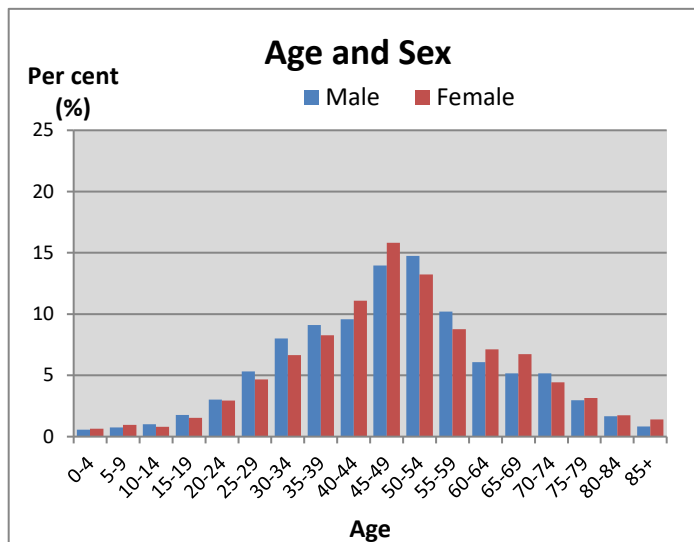


## Age and Sex

The median age of the Turkey-born in 2016 was 48 years compared with 44 years for all overseas-born and 38 years for the total Australian population.

The age distribution showed 2.4 per cent were aged 0-14 years, 4.6 per cent were 15-24 years, 31.4 per cent were 25-44 years, 45.0 per cent were 45-64 years and 16.6 per cent were 65 years and over.

Of the Turkey-born in Australia, there were 16,767 males (52.1 per cent) and 15,413 females (47.9 per cent). The sex ratio was 109 males per 100 females.

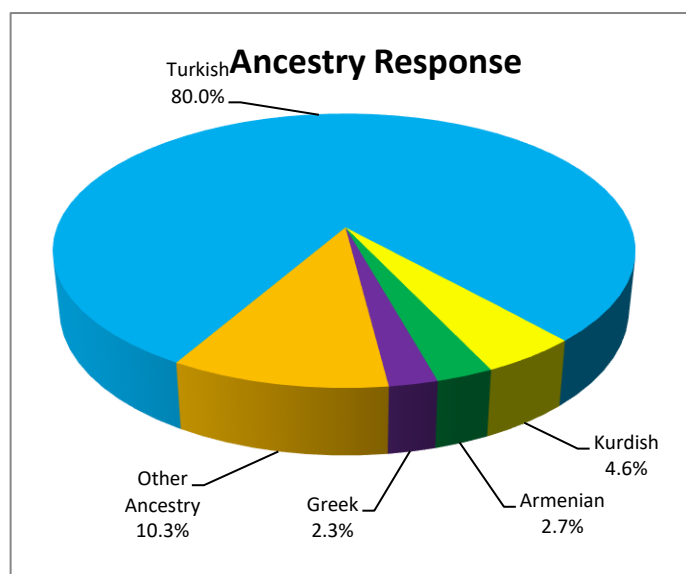


## Ancestry

In the 2016 Census, the top ancestry responses\* that Turkey-born people reported were Turkish (27,238), Kurdish (1,578) and Armenian (924).

In the 2016 Census, Australians reported over 300 different ancestries. Of the total ancestry responses\* 72,968 responses were towards Turkish ancestry.

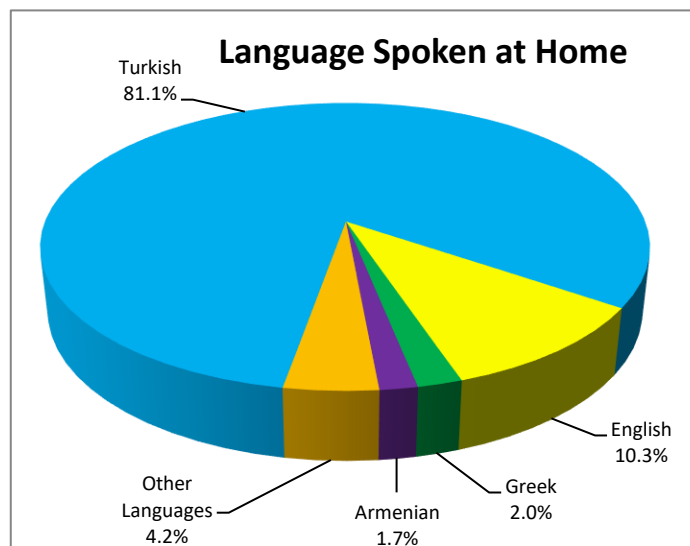
\* At the 2016 Census up to two responses per person were allowed for the Ancestry question, therefore there can be more responses than total persons.



## Language

The main languages spoken at home by Turkey-born people in Australia were Turkish (26,084), English (3,314) and Greek (644).

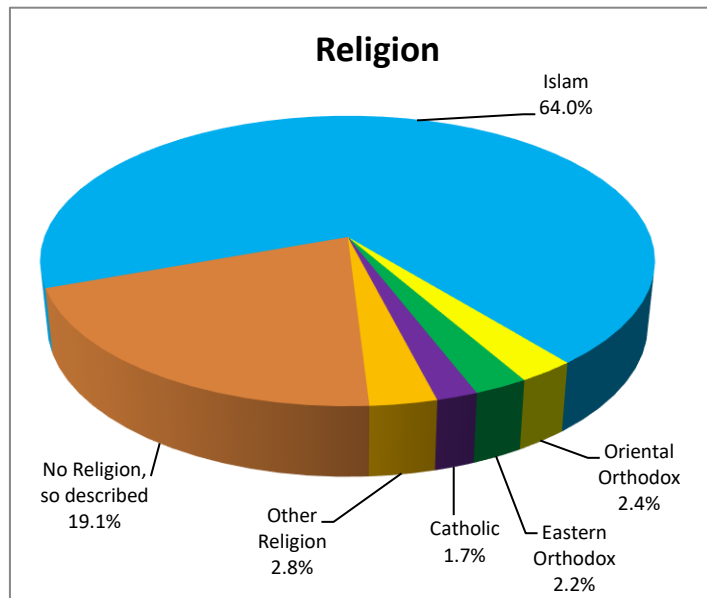
Of the 28,706 Turkey-born who spoke a language other than English at home, 69.8 per cent spoke English very well or well, and 29.3 per cent spoke English not well or not at all.



## Religion

At the 2016 Census the major religious affiliations amongst Turkey-born were Islam (20,605), Oriental Orthodox (761) and Eastern Orthodox (724).

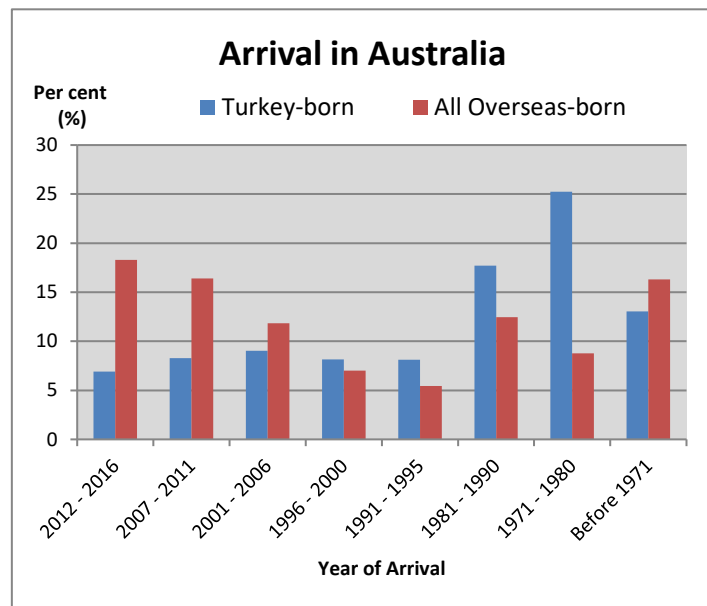
Of the Turkey-born, 19.1 per cent stated 'No Religion' which was lower than that of the total Australian population (29.6 per cent), and 7.3 per cent did not state a religion.



## Arrival

Compared to 61.8 per cent of the total overseas-born population, 81.2 per cent of the Turkey-born people in Australia arrived in Australia prior to 2007.

Among the total Turkey-born in Australia at the 2016 Census, 8.3 per cent arrived between 2007 and 2011 and 6.9 per cent arrived between 2012 and 2016.



## Median Income

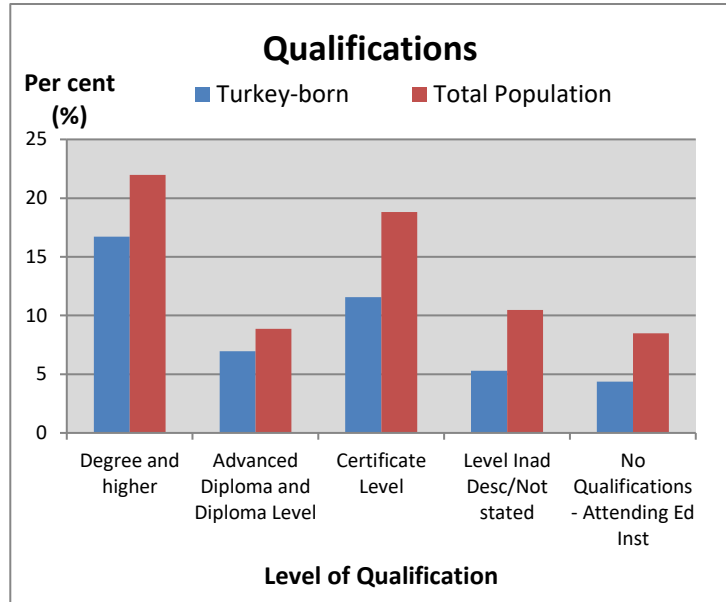
At the time of the 2016 Census, the median Individual Weekly Income for the Turkey-born in Australia aged 15 years and over was \$445, compared with \$615 for all overseas-born and \$688 for all Australian-born.

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

### Qualifications

At the 2016 Census, 40.5 per cent of the Turkey-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 Turkey-born aged 15 years and over, 4.4 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.

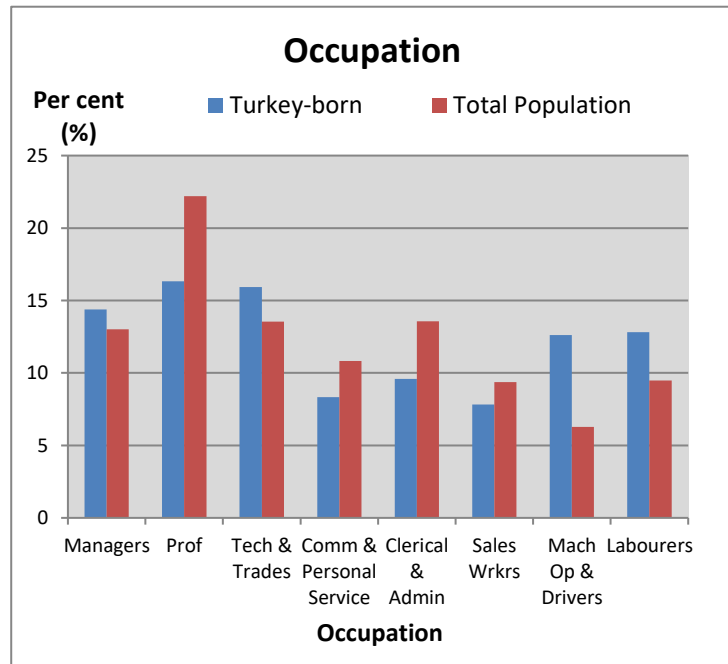


### Employment

Among Turkey-born people aged 15 years and over, the participation rate in the labour force was 49.7 per cent and the unemployment rate was 10.0 per cent.

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

Of the 13,847 Turkey-born who were employed, 46.6 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.