



# Ukraine-born Community Information Summary

## Historical Background

One of the first Ukrainian migrants to Australia was Mykhailo Hryb, a soldier in the Austrian army, who was from the western part of Ukraine when it was part of the Austrian Empire. In the 1860s Hryb sailed to Australia where he established a sheep farm.

Up to 5000 Ukrainians are believed to have arrived in Australia prior to World War I, along with a larger group of Russians, who were workers on the Chinese Eastern Railway, which was completed in 1902. Many lived in Brisbane where they were politically active. A large number also returned to Ukraine at the outset of the Russian revolution, during which control of Ukraine was fought over by Germany, Austria and Russia.

Following World War II, the first Ukrainians from displaced persons camps in Europe arrived in 1948. They came to Australia on assisted passages which included two-year work contracts with the Australian Government. Among the migrants were priests, lawyers, doctors and engineers, but the vast majority were people from a rural background.

The 1954 Census recorded 14,757 Ukraine-born. After that the number of migrants from the Soviet Ukraine was negligible, apart from a few Ukrainian Jews. There was also limited migration of Ukrainians from communities in Poland and Yugoslavia.

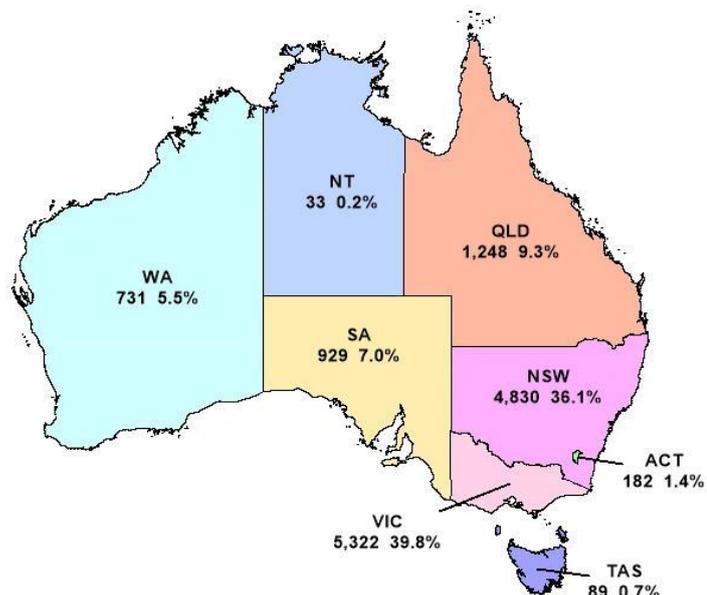
Migration from Ukraine increased following its independence in 1991 from the former Soviet Union, as skilled and family migrants.

## 2016 Census

### Geographic Distribution

The latest Census in 2016 recorded 13,366 Ukraine-born people in Australia, a decrease of 4.5 per cent from the 2011 Census.

The 2016 distribution by State and Territory showed Victoria had the largest number with 5,322 followed by New South Wales (4,830), Queensland (1,248) and South Australia (929).

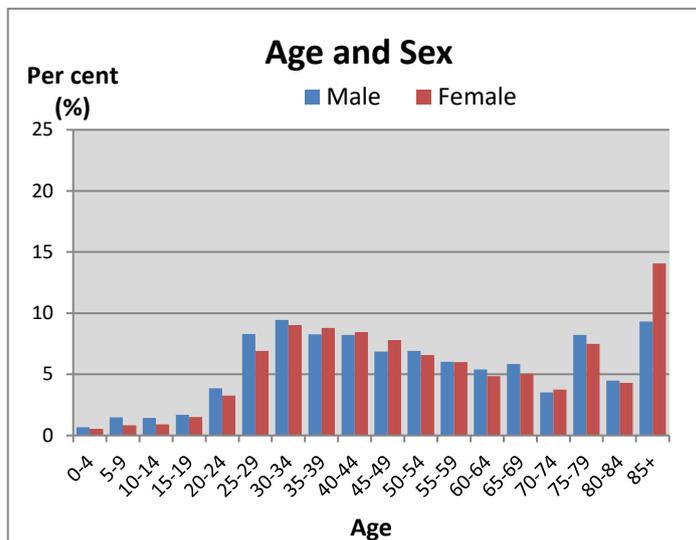


## Age and Sex

The median age of the Ukraine-born in 2016 was 50 years compared with 44 years for all overseas-born and 38 years for the total Australian population.

The age distribution showed 2.9 per cent were aged 0-14 years, 5.1 per cent were 15-24 years, 33.5 per cent were 25-44 years, 25.1 per cent were 45-64 years and 33.3 per cent were 65 years and over.

Of the Ukraine-born in Australia, there were 5,382 males (40.3 per cent) and 7,986 females (59.7 per cent). The sex ratio was 67 males per 100 females.

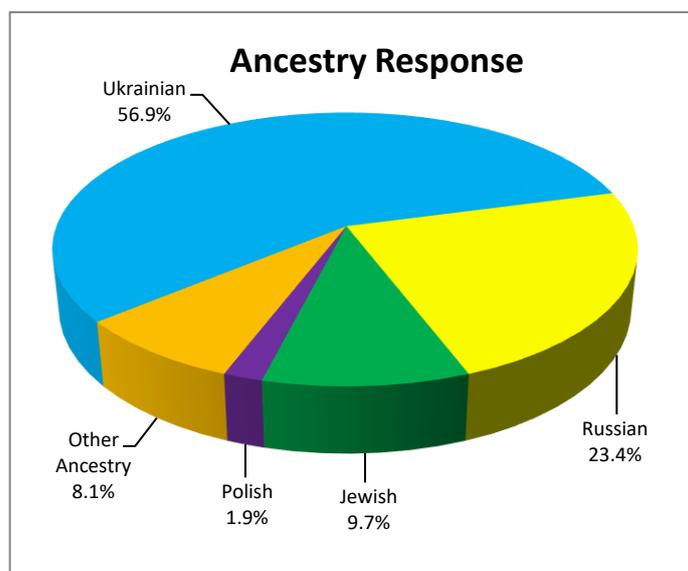


## Ancestry

In the 2016 Census, the top ancestry responses\* that Ukraine-born people reported were Ukrainian (8,964), Russian (3,686) and Jewish (1,526).

In the 2016 Census, Australians reported over 300 different ancestries. Of the total ancestry responses\* 46,186 responses were towards Ukrainian ancestry.

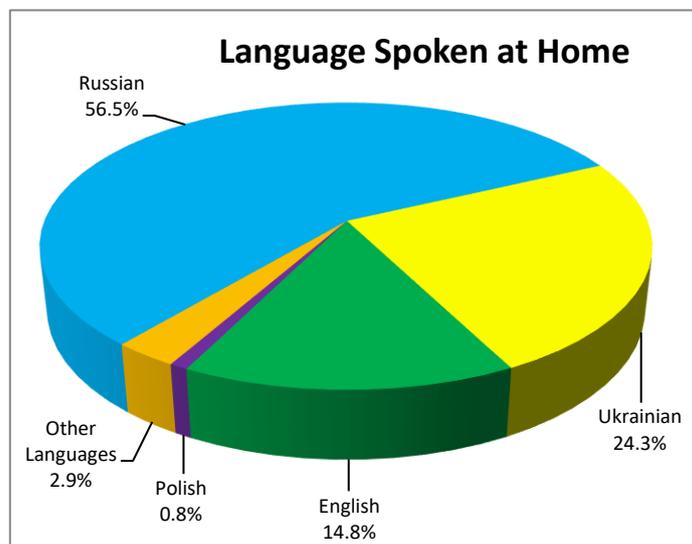
\* At the 2016 Census up to two responses per person were allowed for the Ancestry question, therefore there can be more responses than total persons.



## Language

The main languages spoken at home by Ukraine-born people in Australia were Russian (7,552), Ukrainian (3,248) and English (1,981).

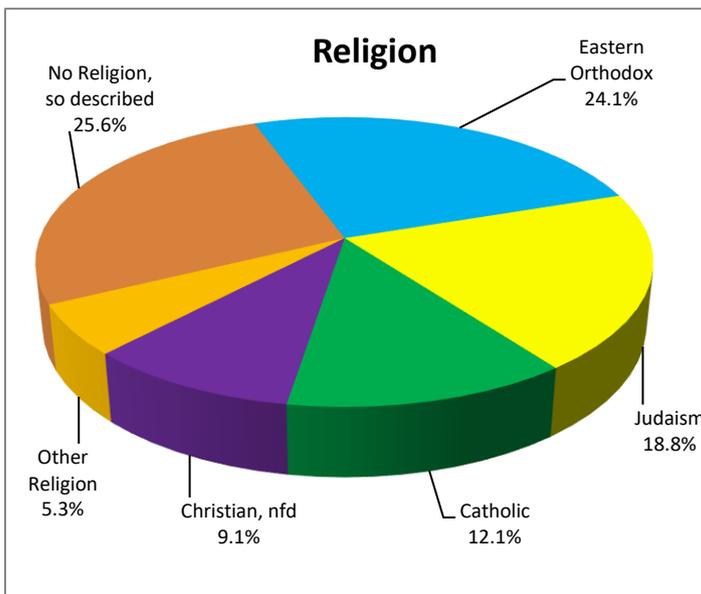
Of the 11,348 Ukraine-born who spoke a language other than English at home, 80.3 per cent spoke English very well or well, and 19.0 per cent spoke English not well or not at all.



## Religion

At the 2016 Census the major religious affiliations amongst Ukraine-born were Eastern Orthodox (3,217), Judaism (2,513) and Catholic (1,621).

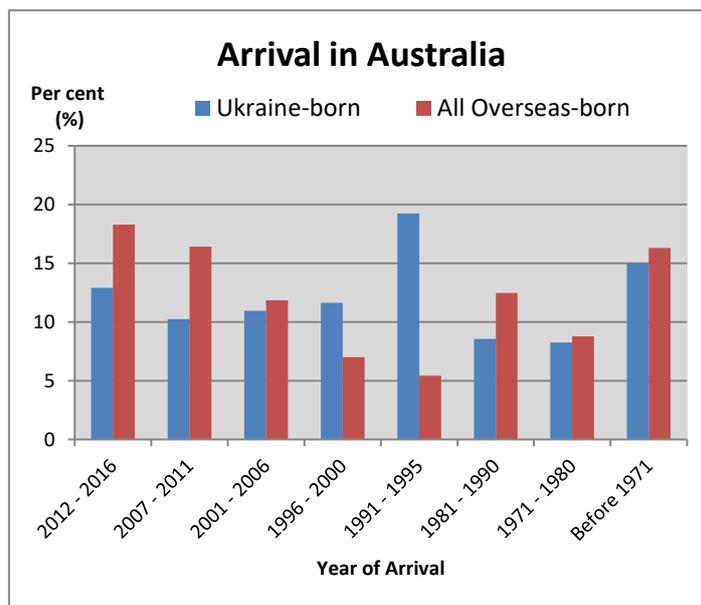
Of the Ukraine-born, 25.6 per cent stated 'No Religion' which was lower than that of the total Australian population (29.6 per cent), and 4.5 per cent did not state a religion.



## Arrival

Compared to 61.8 per cent of the total overseas-born population, 73.6 per cent of the Ukraine-born people in Australia arrived in Australia prior to 2007.

Among the total Ukraine-born in Australia at the 2016 Census, 10.2 per cent arrived between 2007 and 2011 and 12.9 per cent arrived between 2012 and 2016.



## Median Income

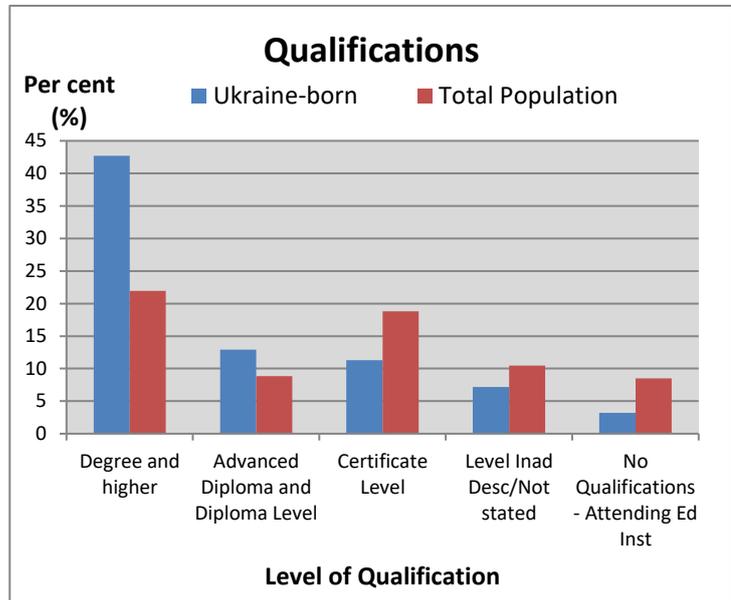
At the time of the 2016 Census, the median Individual Weekly Income for the Ukraine-born in Australia aged 15 years and over was \$511, compared with \$615 for all overseas-born and \$688 for all Australian-born.

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

## Qualifications

At the 2016 Census, 74.1 per cent of the Ukraine-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 Ukraine-born aged 15 years and over, 3.2 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.

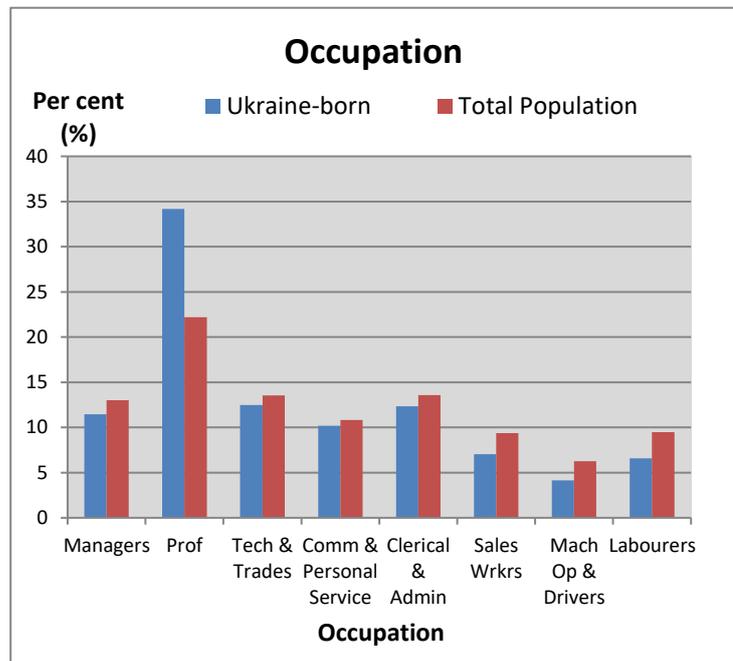


## Employment

Among Ukraine-born people aged 15 years and over, the participation rate in the labour force was 55.1 per cent and the unemployment rate was 7.8 per cent.

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

Of the 6,497 Ukraine-born who were employed, 58.1 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.