



United Kingdom-born Community Information Summary

Historical Background

The United Kingdom Government initiated British settlement of the Australian continent by establishing a penal settlement at Sydney Cove in 1788. Between then and 1852, about 100,000 convicts (mostly tried in England) were transported to eastern Australia. Scotland and Wales contributed relatively few convicts.

The convicts were augmented by free settlers, including large numbers who arrived during the gold-rush in the 1850s. As late as 1861, people born in England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland outnumbered even the Australia-born population. The number of settlers in Australia who were born in the United Kingdom peaked at 825,000 in 1891, from which point the proportion of British among all immigrants to Australia steadily declined.

Following World War II the Australian Government entered into agreements with the British Government to provide free and assisted passages to British ex-servicemen, selected civilians and their dependants. Schemes to encourage British migration included the 'Bring Out a Briton' campaign launched in 1957, under which employers and organisations were encouraged to sponsor particular families and assist in their settlement. Between 1947 and 1973, immigrants from the United Kingdom constituted 41 per cent of Australia's total immigration intake of more than 2.5 million.

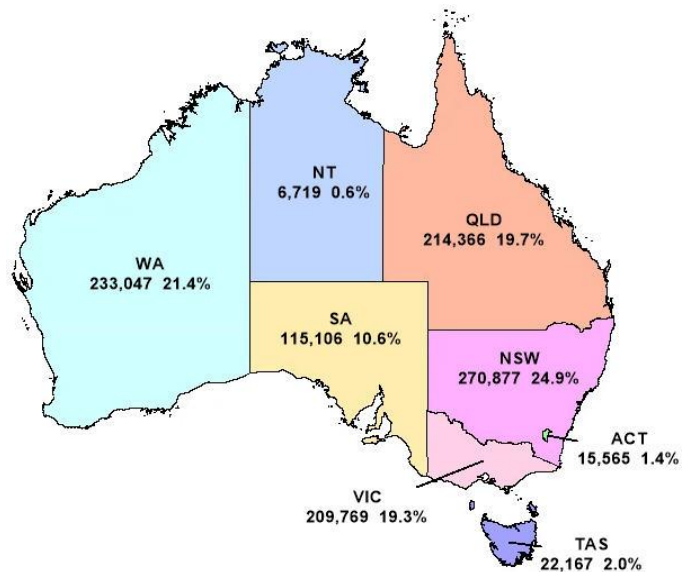
Despite the gradual withdrawal of government assistance to new settlers, the post-war immigration program had the effect of pushing the United Kingdom-born population in Australia to 1,107,119 in 1991 or 30 per cent of the total overseas-born population. Since that time, numbers have fluctuated but remain the largest overseas-born group in Australia while the United Kingdom remains a top three source country of migrants to Australia.

2016 Census

Geographic Distribution

The latest Census in 2016 recorded 1,087,759 United Kingdom-born people in Australia, a decrease of 1.2 per cent from the 2011 Census.

The 2016 distribution by State and Territory showed New South Wales had the largest number with 270,877 followed by Western Australia (233,047), Queensland (214,366) and Victoria (209,769).

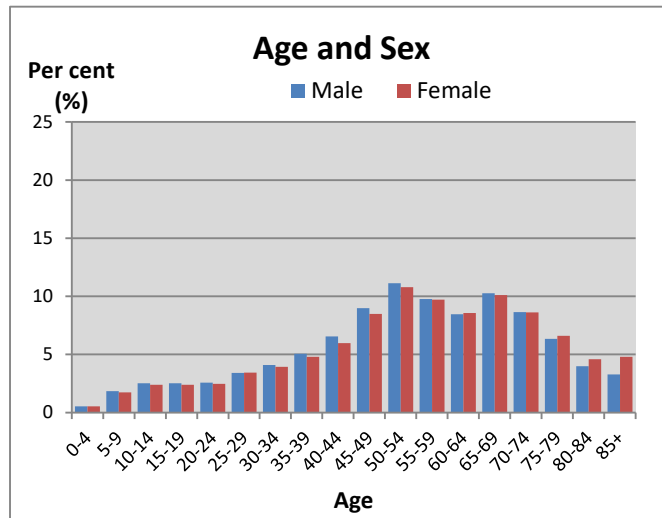


Age and Sex

The median age of the United Kingdom-born in 2016 was 55 years compared with 44 years for all overseas-born and 38 years for the total Australian population.

The age distribution showed 4.8 per cent were aged 0-14 years, 5.0 per cent were 15-24 years, 18.6 per cent were 25-44 years, 37.9 per cent were 45-64 years and 33.6 per cent were 65 years and over.

Of the United Kingdom-born in Australia, there were 549,074 males (50.5 per cent) and 538,683 females (49.5 per cent). The sex ratio was 102 males per 100 females.

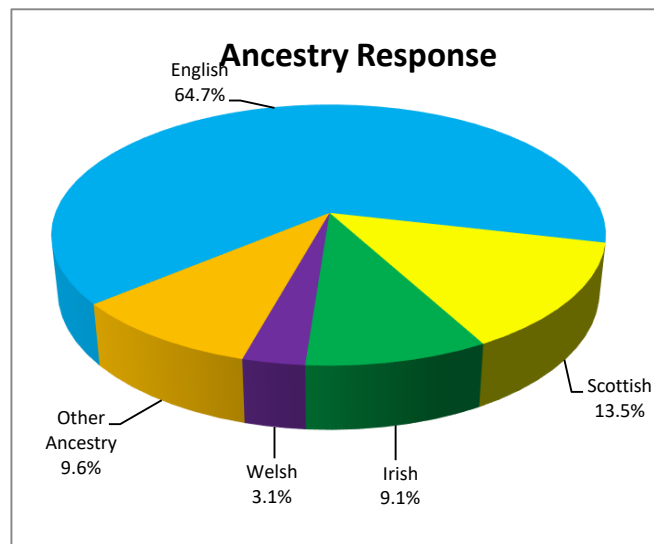


Ancestry

In the 2016 Census, the top ancestry responses* that United Kingdom-born people reported were English (859,784), Scottish (178,667) and Irish (120,733).

In the 2016 Census, Australians reported over 300 different ancestries. Of the total ancestry responses* 7,852,224 responses were towards English ancestry.

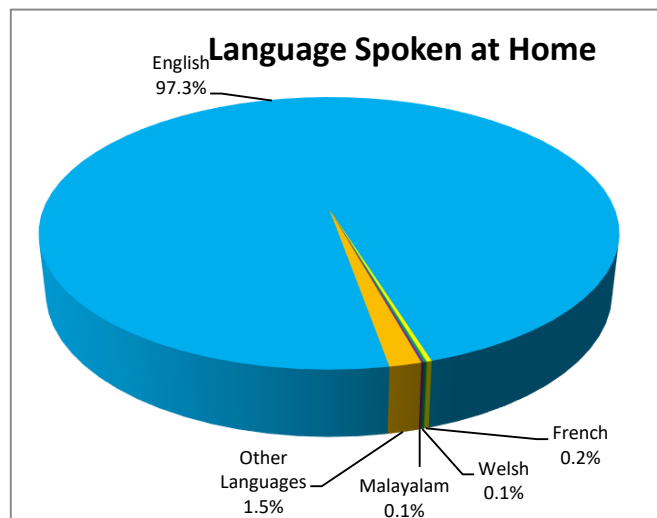
* At the 2016 Census up to two responses per person were allowed for the Ancestry question, therefore there can be more responses than total persons.



Language

The main languages spoken at home by United Kingdom-born people in Australia were English (1,058,079), French (2,568) and Welsh (1,448).

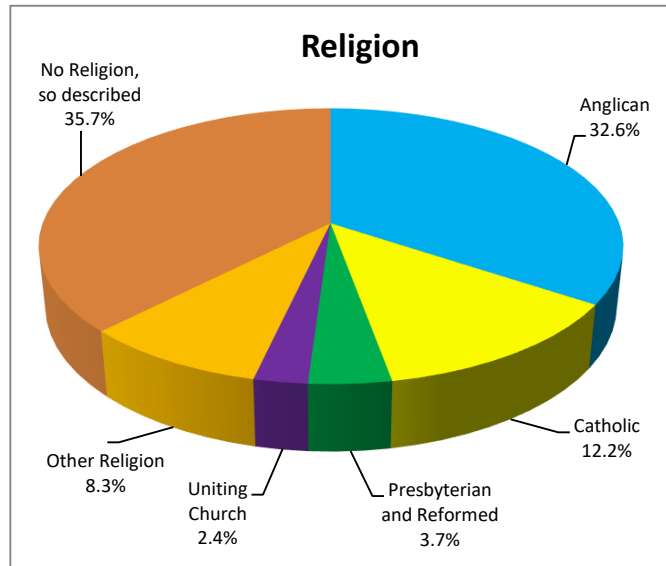
Of the 24,944 United Kingdom-born who spoke a language other than English at home, 96.0 per cent spoke English very well or well, and 2.8 per cent spoke English not well or not at all.



Religion

At the 2016 Census the major religious affiliations amongst United Kingdom-born were Anglican (354,386), Catholic (132,347) and Presbyterian and Reformed (40,496).

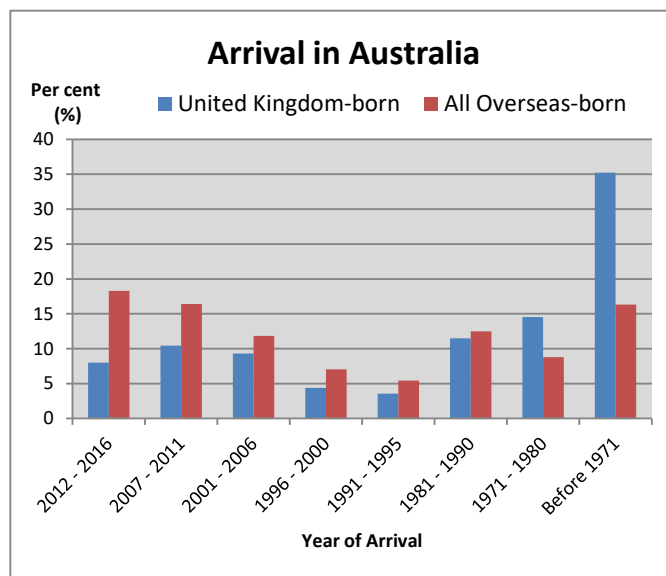
Of the United Kingdom-born, 36.1 per cent stated 'No Religion' which was higher than that of the total Australian population (29.6 per cent), and 4.2 per cent did not state a religion.



Arrival

Compared to 61.8 per cent of the total overseas-born population, 78.5 per cent of the United Kingdom-born people in Australia arrived in Australia prior to 2007.

Among the total United Kingdom-born in Australia at the 2016 Census, 10.4 per cent arrived between 2007 and 2011 and 8.0 per cent arrived between 2012 and 2016.



Median Income

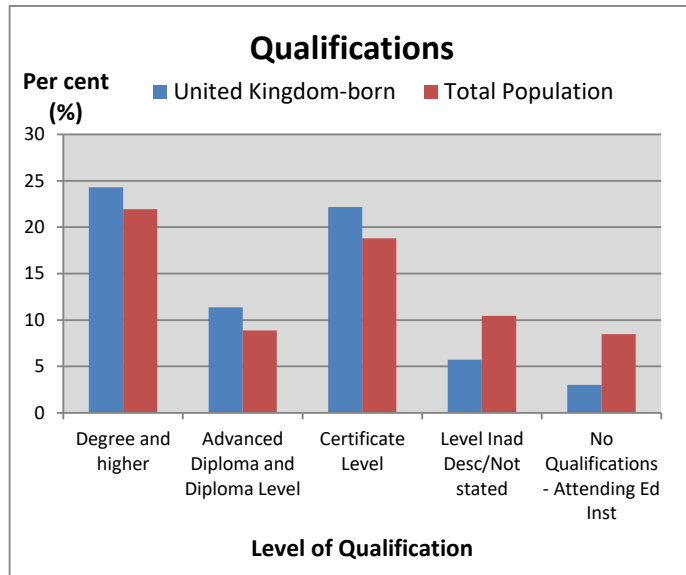
At the time of the 2016 Census, the median Individual Weekly Income for the United Kingdom-born in Australia aged 15 years and over was \$709, compared with \$615 for all overseas-born and \$688 for all Australian-born.

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

Qualifications

At the 2016 Census, 63.6 per cent of the United Kingdom-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 United Kingdom-born aged 15 years and over, 3.0 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.

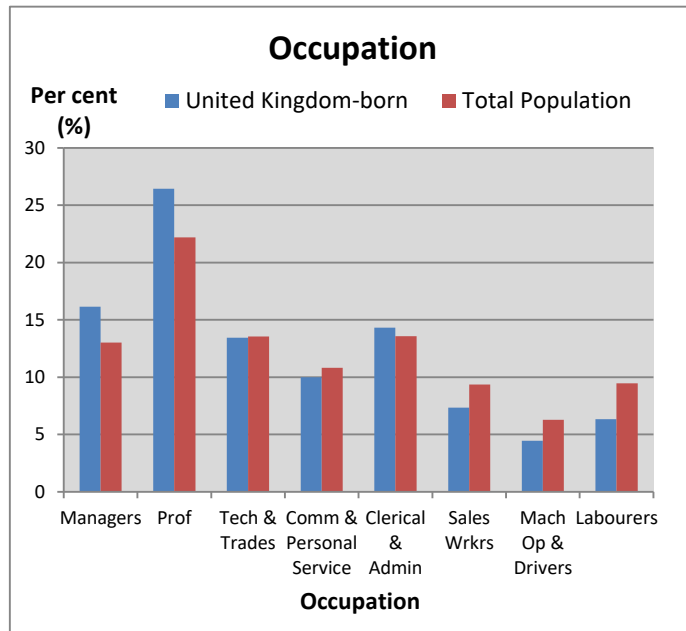


Employment

Among United Kingdom-born people aged 15 years and over, the participation rate in the labour force was 57.6 per cent and the unemployment rate was 5.0 per cent.

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

Of the 560,928 United Kingdom-born who were employed, 56.0 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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