



# United States of America-born Community Information Summary

## Historical Background

North Americans have had contact with Australia since the 1700s. In 1770, the first Americans to Australia sailed aboard the Endeavour with Captain James Cook. They were Seaman John Thurmond and Midshipman Mario (James) Matra from New York and Second Lieutenant John Gore from Virginia.

During the first 20 years of the settlement of the New South Wales colony, trade links were developed almost exclusively with North America due to restrictions by the East India Company's monopoly that curtailed British mercantile trade. By 1850, 86 ships were engaged in trans-Pacific trade.

In the ensuing decades, Americans were drawn to Australia to participate in various enterprises such as the minerals and mining, including for gold, freight and transport (notably, Cobb & Co coaches), telegraph, rural industries especially timber cutting, whaling expeditions, the arts, journalism and politics.

By 1901, the Census recorded 7450 USA-born people in Australia. Many American business people came to Australia over the next five decades although few chose to settle permanently. However, there was an increase between 1945 and 1960, with more than 18,000 Americans settling in Australia. In 1971 the Census recorded 39,040 USA-born persons in Australia.

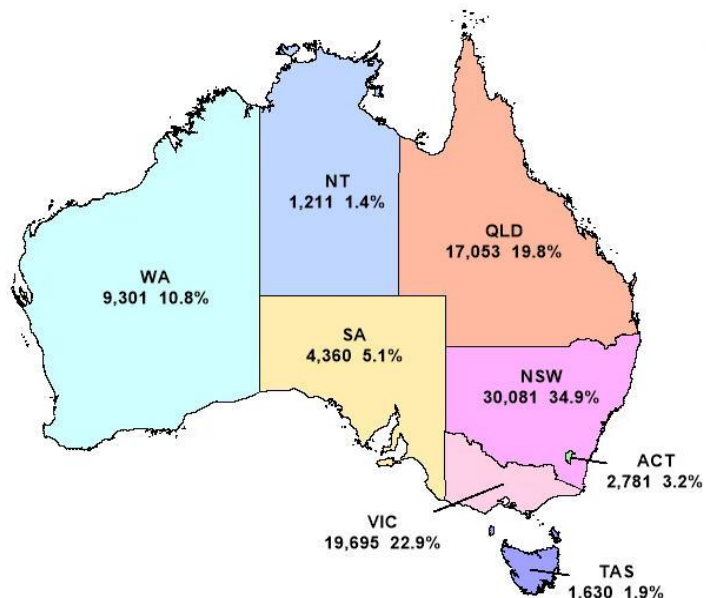
Since the 1970s there has been a steady increase in the USA-born population in Australia, reaching a total of 43,670 by 1991, 53,720 in 2001, and 77,010 in 2011.

## 2016 Census

### Geographic Distribution

The latest Census in 2016 recorded 86,125 United States of America-born people in Australia, an increase of 11.8 per cent from the 2011 Census.

The 2016 distribution by State and Territory showed New South Wales had the largest number with 30,081 followed by Victoria (19,695), Queensland (17,053) and Western Australia (9,301).

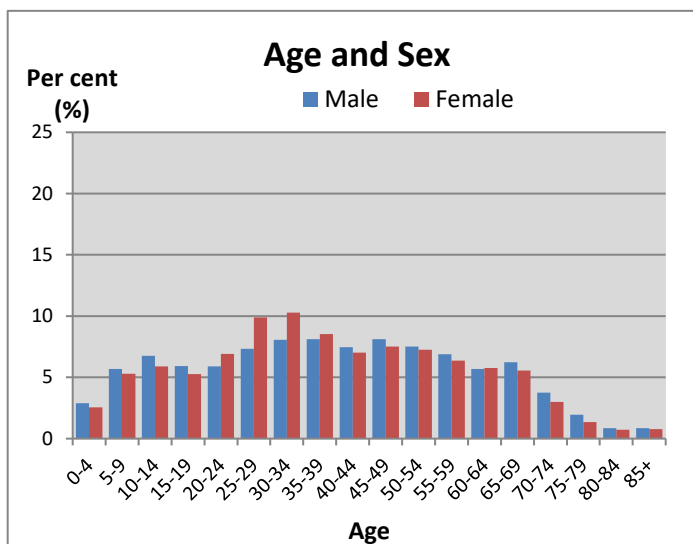


## Age and Sex

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

The age distribution showed 14.5 per cent were aged 0-14 years, 12.0 per cent were 15-24 years, 33.4 per cent were 25-44 years, 27.5 per cent were 45-64 years and 12.5 per cent were 65 years and over.

Of the United States of America-born in Australia, there were 42,156 males (48.9 per cent) and 43,977 females (51.1 per cent). The sex ratio was 96 males per 100 females.

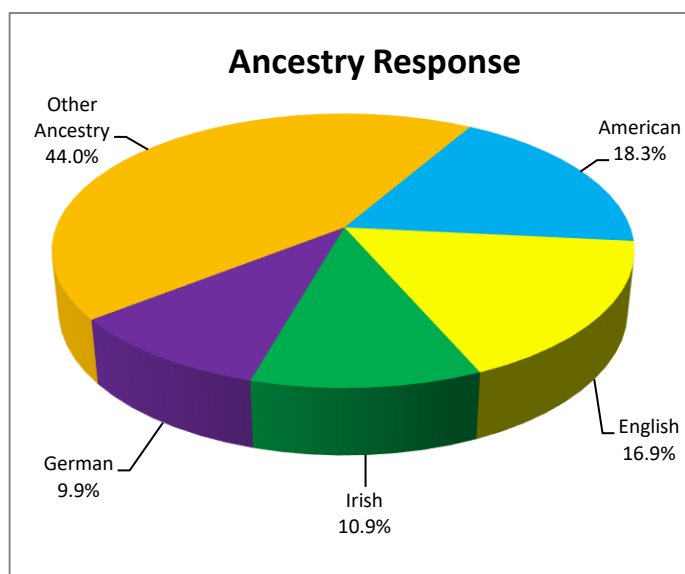


## Ancestry

In the 2016 Census, the top ancestry responses\* that United States of America-born people reported were American (24,293), English (22,504) and Irish (14,484).

In the 2016 Census, Australians reported over 300 different ancestries. Of the total ancestry responses\* 63,972 responses were towards American ancestry.

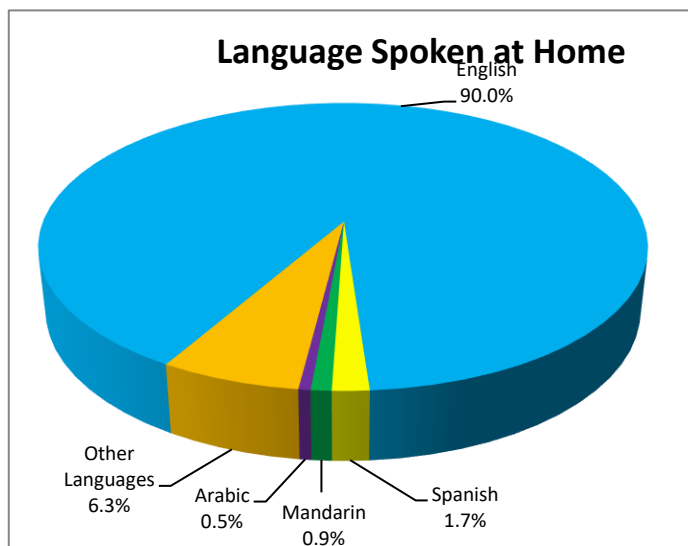
\* At the 2016 Census up to two responses per person were allowed for the Ancestry question, therefore there can be more responses than total persons.



## Language

The main languages spoken at home by United States of America-born people in Australia were English (77,544), Spanish (1,423) and Mandarin (791).

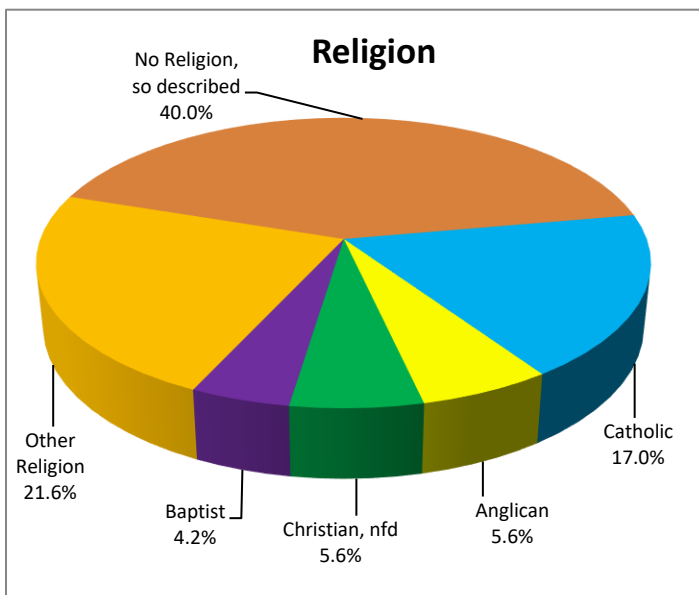
Of the 8,337 United States of America-born who spoke a language other than English at home, 94.0 per cent spoke English very well or well, and 5.0 per cent spoke English not well or not at all.



## Religion

At the 2016 Census the major religious affiliations amongst United States of America-born were Catholic (14,628), Anglican (4,807) and Christian, nfd (4,795).

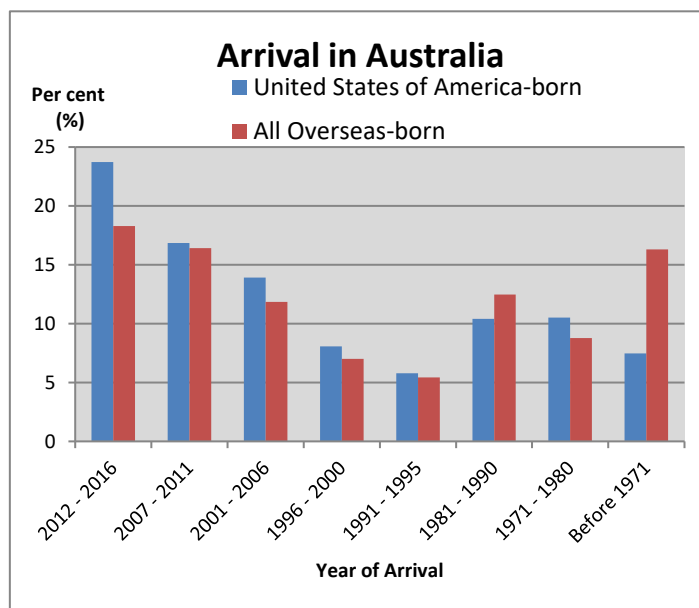
Of the United States of America-born, 40.0 per cent stated 'No Religion' which was higher than that of the total Australian population (29.6 per cent), and 5.2 per cent did not state a religion.



## Arrival

Compared to 61.8 per cent of the total overseas-born population, 56.2 per cent of the United States of America-born people in Australia arrived in Australia prior to 2007.

Among the total United States of America-born in Australia at the 2016 Census, 16.8 per cent arrived between 2007 and 2011 and 23.7 per cent arrived between 2012 and 2016.



## Median Income

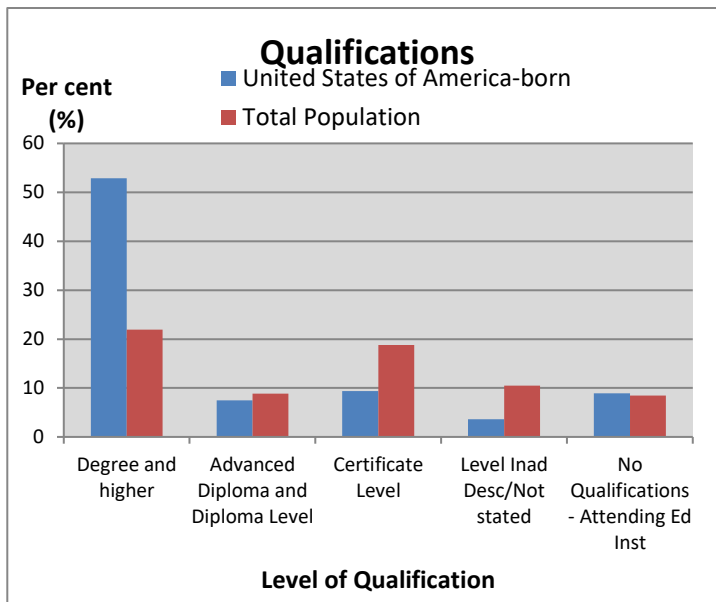
At the time of the 2016 Census, the median Individual Weekly Income for the United States of America-born in Australia aged 15 years and over was \$833, compared with \$615 for all overseas-born and \$688 for all Australian-born.

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

### Qualifications

At the 2016 Census, 73.3 per cent of the United States of America-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 States of America-born aged 15 years and over, 8.9 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.

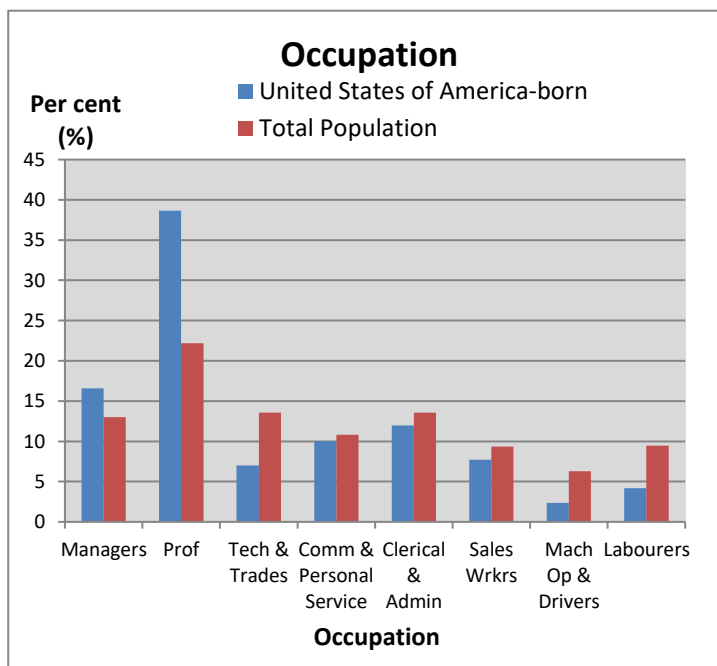


### Employment

Among United States of America-born people aged 15 years and over, the participation rate in the labour force was 69.5 per cent and the unemployment rate was 7.0 per cent.

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

Of the 47,324 United States of America-born who were employed, 62.3 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.