



Vietnam-born Community Information Summary

Historical Background

Vietnam was part of French Indochina from 1887 until its occupation by Japan in 1940 during World War II. Following the war, Hồ Chí Minh declared Vietnam's independence on September 1945. However, France reclaimed control until local rebellion led to the French Indochina War. After the French were defeated in 1954, and under the Geneva Accords, Vietnam was provisionally divided at the 17th parallel, with a communist government in the north and an American-recognised government in the south.

Failure of the Geneva Accords, particularly relating to reunification, and insurgency in the south led to further conflict, between the north and south. In April 1975, Saigon fell to the north and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam was declared the following year. Many Vietnamese left their country and in the following decade an estimated two million people initially sought refuge in neighbouring refugee camps in south-east Asia and later resettling in Australia, the United States, France and Canada.

Prior to 1975, there were about 700 Vietnam-born people in Australia, mostly tertiary students, orphans, and wives of Australian military personnel who had served in (South) Vietnam. Refugee resettlement occurred during 1975-1985, followed by family reunion. By 1981, 49,616 Vietnamese had been resettled in Australia. The composition of the Vietnamese intake changed in the mid-1990s with the implementation of the Comprehensive Plan of Action and streamlining of the Vietnamese Family Migration Program. Thereafter, the number of refugees seeking asylum in Australia declined.

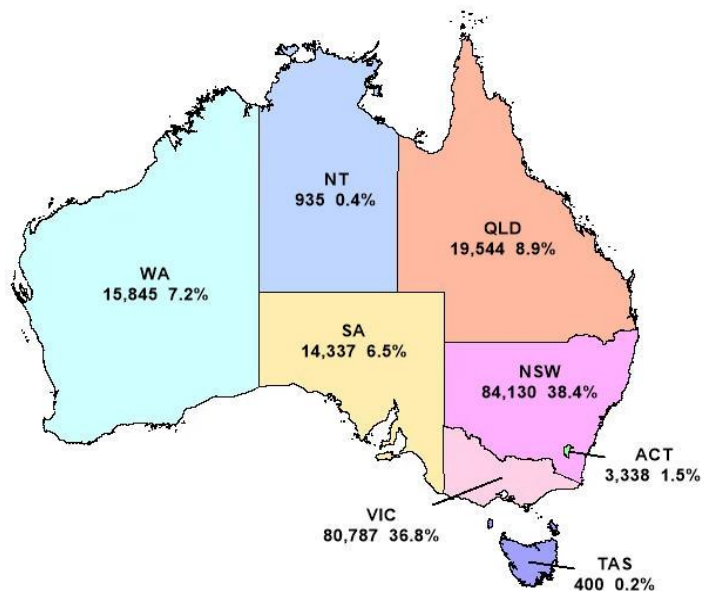
The majority of the most recent Vietnam-born migrants to Australia have arrived under the Family and Skilled streams of the Migration Program.

2016 Census

Geographic Distribution

The latest Census in 2016 recorded 219,355 Vietnam-born people in Australia, an increase of 18.5 per cent from the 2011 Census.

The 2016 distribution by State and Territory showed New South Wales had the largest number with 84,130 followed by Victoria (80,787), Queensland (19,544) and Western Australia (15,845).

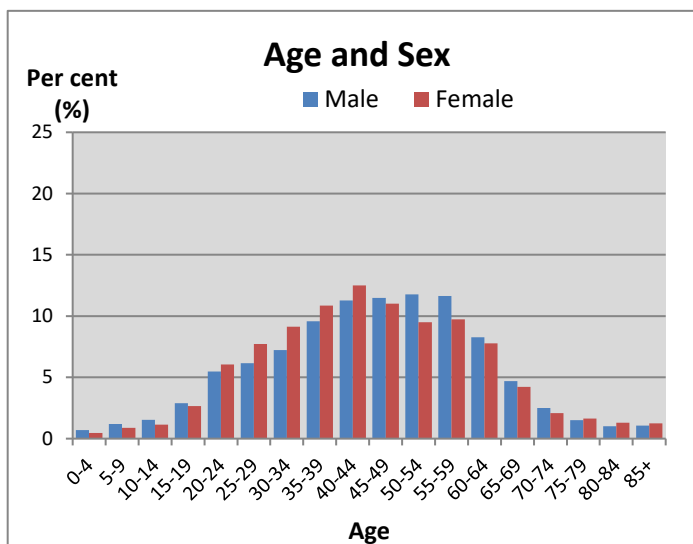


Age and Sex

The median age of the Vietnam-born in 2016 was 45 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, 8.6 per cent were 15-24 years, 37.6 per cent were 25-44 years, 40.3 per cent were 45-64 years and 10.6 per cent were 65 years and over.

Of the Vietnam-born in Australia, there were 98,072 males (44.7 per cent) and 121,285 females (55.3 per cent). The sex ratio was 81 males per 100 females.

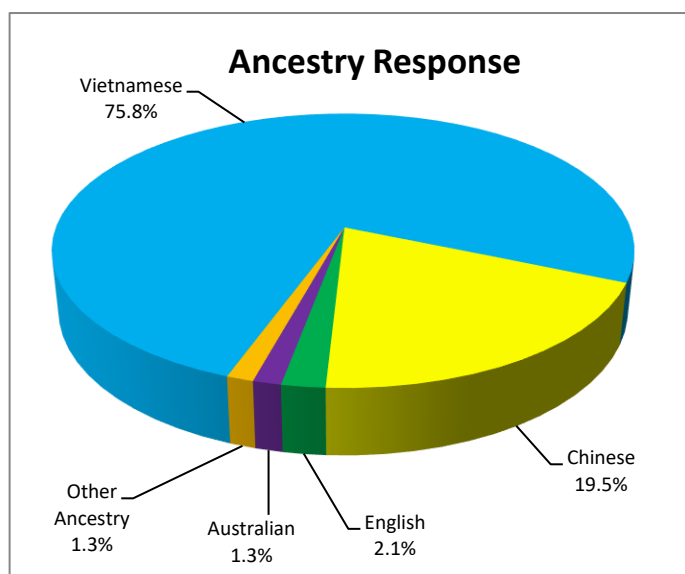


Ancestry

In the 2016 Census, the top ancestry responses* that Vietnam-born people reported were Vietnamese (175,446), Chinese (45,117) and English (4,796).

In the 2016 Census, Australians reported over 300 different ancestries. Of the total ancestry responses* 294,798 responses were towards Vietnamese ancestry.

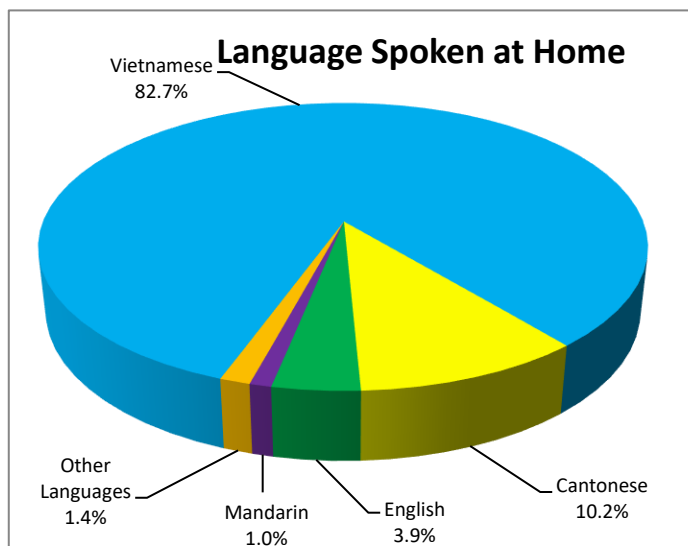
* At the 2016 Census up to two responses per person were allowed for the Ancestry question, therefore there can be more responses than total persons.



Language

The main languages spoken at home by Vietnam-born people in Australia were Vietnamese (181,324), Cantonese (22,478) and English (8,573).

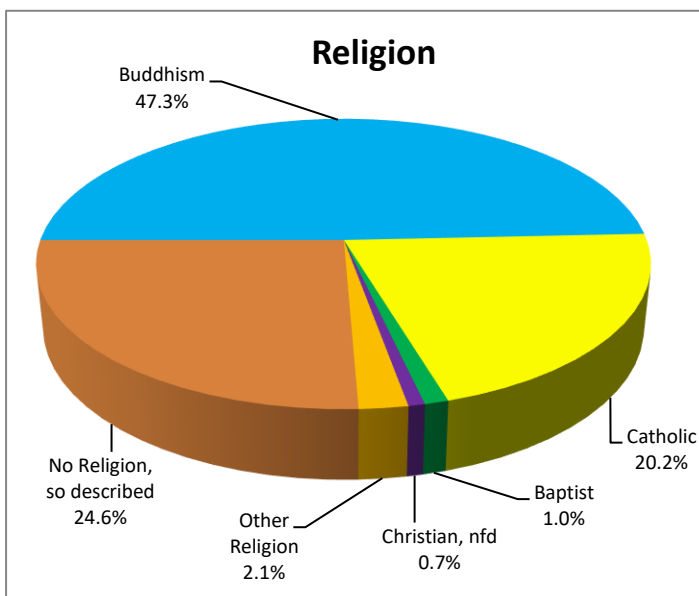
Of the 209,446 Vietnam-born who spoke a language other than English at home, 58.0 per cent spoke English very well or well, and 41.4 per cent spoke English not well or not at all.



Religion

At the 2016 Census the major religious affiliations amongst Vietnam-born were Buddhism (103,650), Catholic (44,227) and Baptist (2,264).

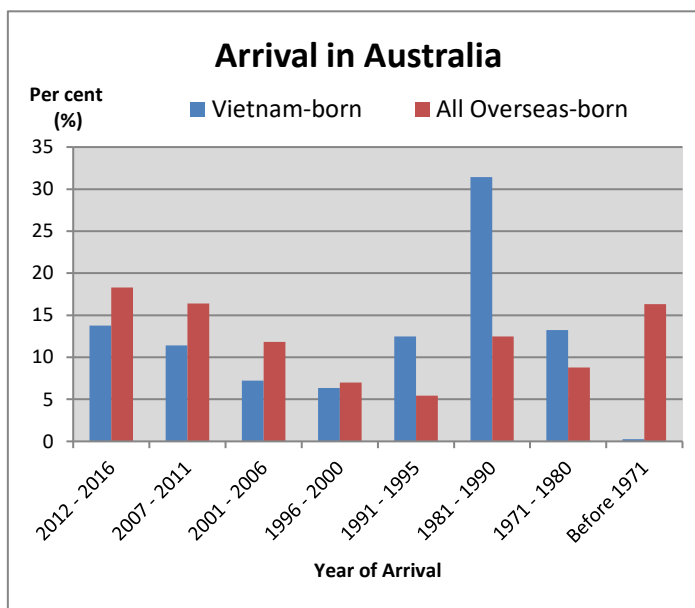
Of the Vietnam-born, 24.6 per cent stated 'No Religion' which was lower than that of the total Australian population (29.6 per cent), and 3.9 per cent did not state a religion.



Arrival

Compared to 61.8 per cent of the total overseas-born population, 71.0 per cent of the Vietnam-born people in Australia arrived in Australia prior to 2007.

Among the total Vietnam-born in Australia at the 2016 Census, 11.4 per cent arrived between 2007 and 2011 and 13.8 per cent arrived between 2012 and 2016.



Median Income

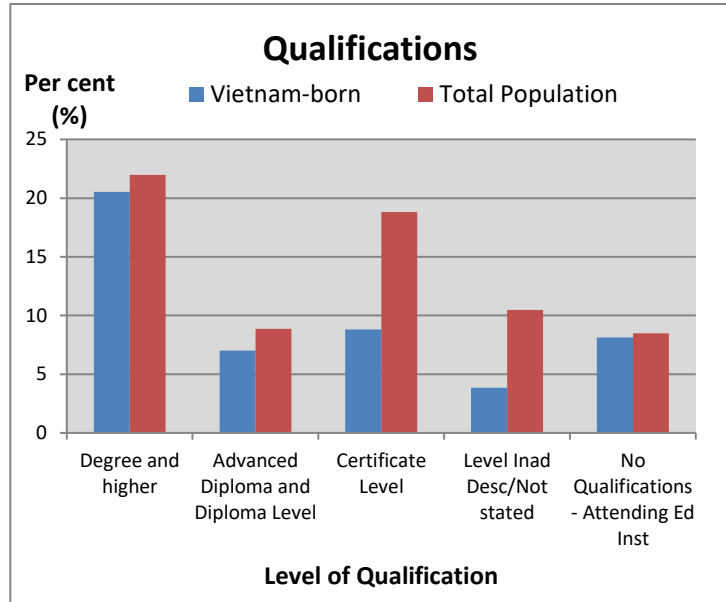
At the time of the 2016 Census, the median Individual Weekly Income for the Vietnam-born in Australia aged 15 years and over was \$456, compared with \$615 for all overseas-born and \$688 for all Australian-born.

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

Qualifications

At the 2016 Census, 40.2 per cent of the Vietnam-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 Vietnam-born aged 15 years and over, 8.1 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.

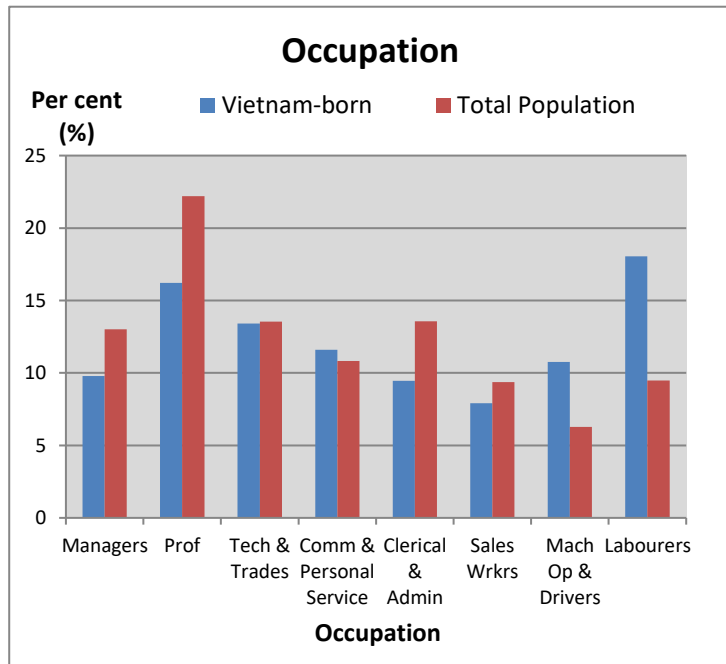


Employment

Among Vietnam-born people aged 15 years and over, the participation rate in the labour force was 60.9 per cent and the unemployment rate was 10.5 per cent.

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

Of the 114,813 Vietnam-born who were employed, 39.4 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.