



Zimbabwe-born Community Information Summary

Historical Background

Small numbers of Rhodesia-born (as it was then called) people migrated to Australia from the 1950s, with numbers increasing in the late 1970s in the lead up to the independence of Zimbabwe in 1980.

Land reform under the Mugabe government from the 1980s aimed at land redistribution, resulted in large numbers of farmers of European background, and others due to political turmoil, leaving Zimbabwe with many migrating to South Africa and the United Kingdom, and some to Australia in the 1990s.

Zimbabwe suffered catastrophic economic decline between 2000 and 2008. The uncertain economic conditions have meant continuing migration to Australia, with two-thirds of the Zimbabwe-born arriving in Australia since 2001, peaking in 2008, most of them as skilled migrants.

Immigration from Zimbabwe to Australia began to fall after 2008, with the inauguration of the Inclusive Government in 2009 and the economy stabilising in relative terms. However in recent years, the country still suffers from high levels of civil unrest and economic instability.

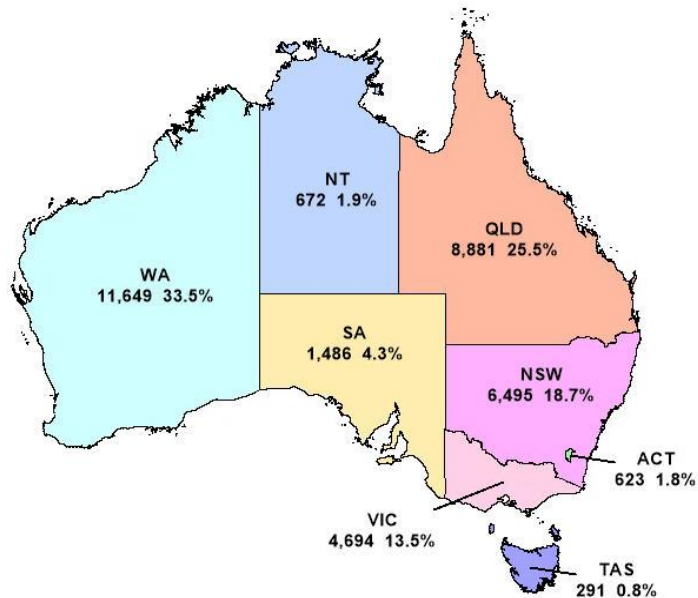
While most of the Zimbabwe-born in Australia are of English or Scottish backgrounds, there are growing numbers of people of indigenous Shona and Ndebele ethnicities.

2016 Census

Geographic Distribution

The latest Census in 2016 recorded 34,787 Zimbabwe-born people in Australia, an increase of 15.0 per cent from the 2011 Census.

The 2016 distribution by State and Territory showed Western Australia had the largest number with 11,649 followed by Queensland (8,881), New South Wales (6,495) and Victoria (4,694).

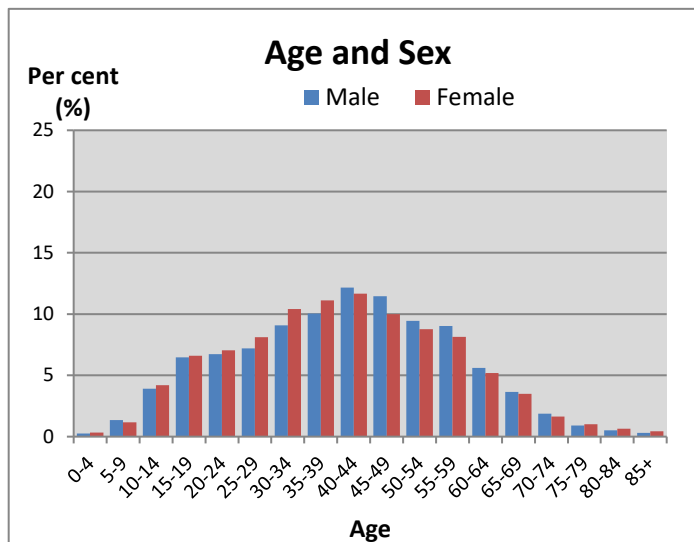


Age and Sex

The median age of the Zimbabwe-born in 2016 was 41 years compared with 44 years for all overseas-born and 38 years for the total Australian population.

The age distribution showed 5.6 per cent were aged 0-14 years, 13.4 per cent were 15-24 years, 39.9 per cent were 25-44 years, 33.8 per cent were 45-64 years and 7.2 per cent were 65 years and over.

Of the Zimbabwe-born in Australia, there were 17,187 males (49.4 per cent) and 17,601 females (50.6 per cent). The sex ratio was 98 males per 100 females.

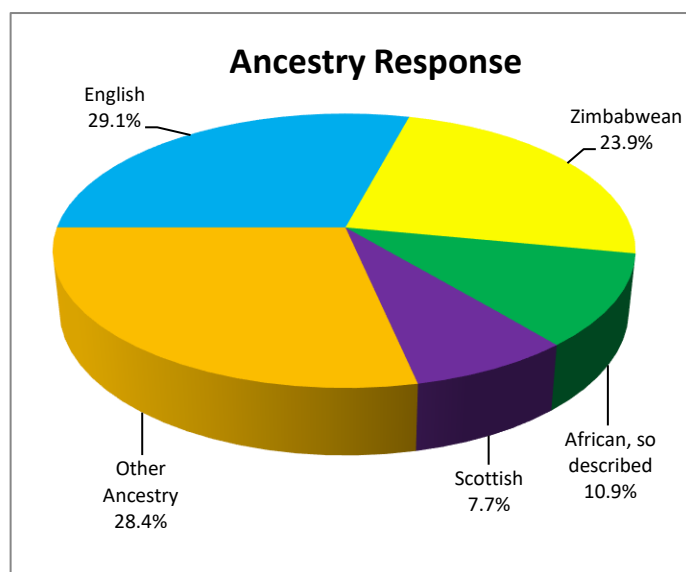


Ancestry

In the 2016 Census, the top ancestry responses* that Zimbabwe-born people reported were English (13,185), Zimbabwean (10,807) and African, so described (4,938).

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

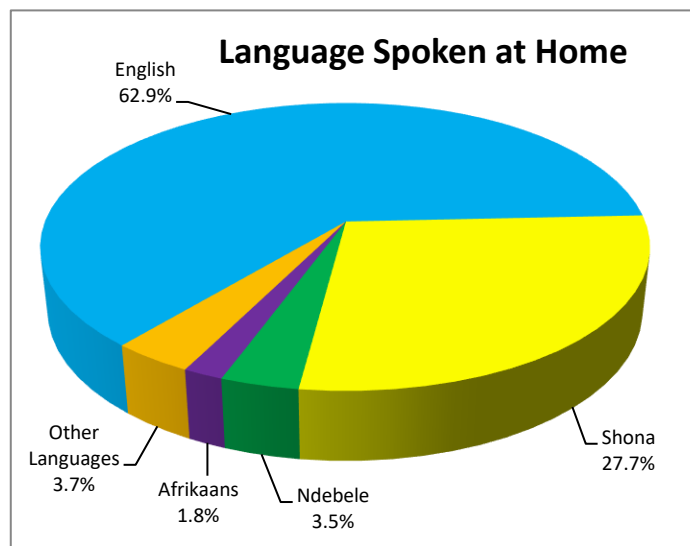
* At the 2016 Census up to two responses per person were allowed for the Ancestry question, therefore there can be more responses than total persons.



Language

The main languages spoken at home by Zimbabwe-born people in Australia were English (21,895), Shona (9,626) and Ndebele (1,223).

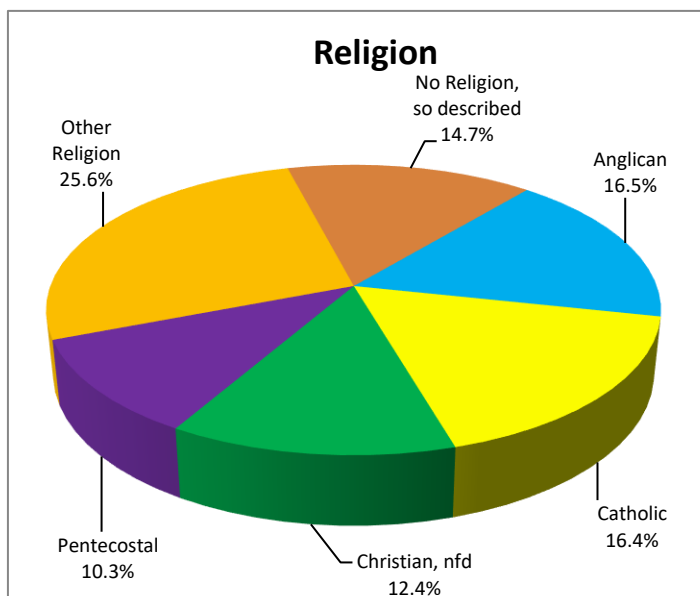
Of the 12,826 Zimbabwe-born who spoke a language other than English at home, 98.4 per cent spoke English very well or well, and 0.5 per cent spoke English not well or not at all.



Religion

At the 2016 Census the major religious affiliations amongst Zimbabwe-born were Anglican (5,726), Catholic (5,689) and Christian, nfd (4,298).

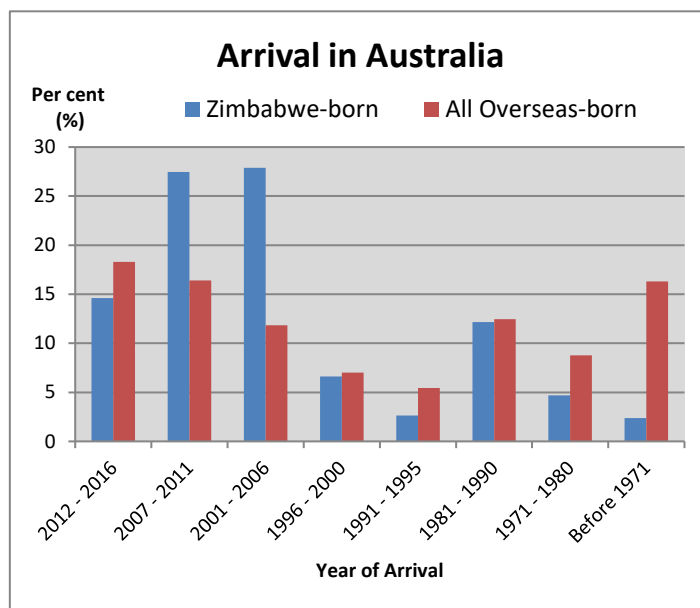
Of the Zimbabwe-born, 14.7 per cent stated 'No Religion' which was lower than that of the total Australian population (29.6 per cent), and 3.7 per cent did not state a religion.



Arrival

Compared to 61.8 per cent of the total overseas-born population, 56.4 per cent of the Zimbabwe-born people in Australia arrived in Australia prior to 2007.

Among the total Zimbabwe-born in Australia at the 2016 Census, 27.5 per cent arrived between 2007 and 2011 and 14.6 per cent arrived between 2012 and 2016.



Median Income

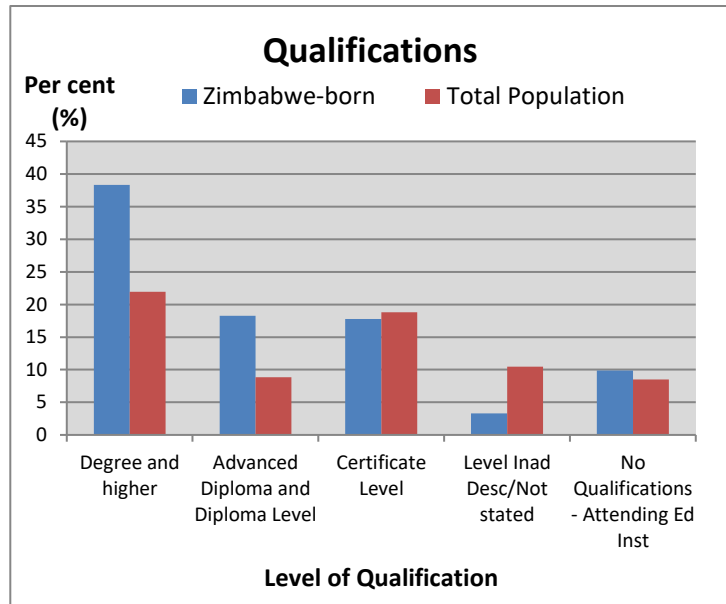
At the time of the 2016 Census, the median Individual Weekly Income for the Zimbabwe-born in Australia aged 15 years and over was \$1049, compared with \$615 for all overseas-born and \$688 for all Australian-born.

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

Qualifications

At the 2016 Census, 77.7 per cent of the Zimbabwe-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 Zimbabwe-born aged 15 years and over, 9.9 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.

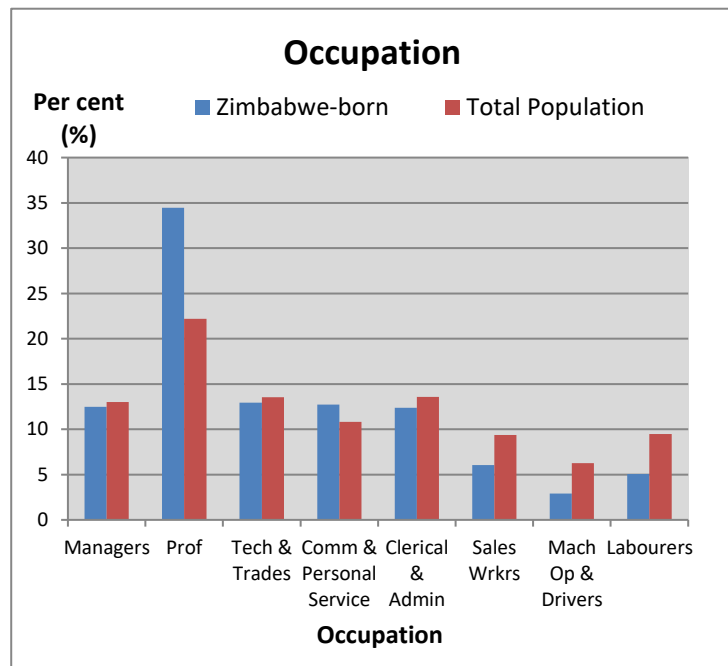


Employment

Among Zimbabwe-born people aged 15 years and over, the participation rate in the labour force was 82.0 per cent and the unemployment rate was 6.7 per cent.

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

Of the 24,975 Zimbabwe-born who were employed, 59.9 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.