



# Japan-born Community Information Summary

## Historical Background

Until 1866, it was a capital offence for Japanese to leave Japan. The first recorded Japan-born settler arrived in Australia in 1871, Mr Sakuragawa Rikinosuke who was an acrobat who settled in Queensland.

During the 1880s and 1890s some Japan-born migrants worked as crew for Australian pearlers in northern Australia. Others worked in the Queensland sugarcane industry, or were employed in service roles. A Japanese Consulate was established in Townsville with one of its main tasks being to monitor the welfare of the Japanese workers in the region.

Many Japan-born continued to come to Australia on temporary entry permits under indentured work schemes, despite the introduction of immigration restrictions. The 1911 Census recorded 3,281 Japan-born males and 208 females in Australia.

With the outbreak of war in the Pacific in 1941, most of the Japan-born in Australia were interned and then deported when the war ended. At the end of the war only 74 Japan-born nationals and their children were permitted to remain in Australia, mostly in Victoria.

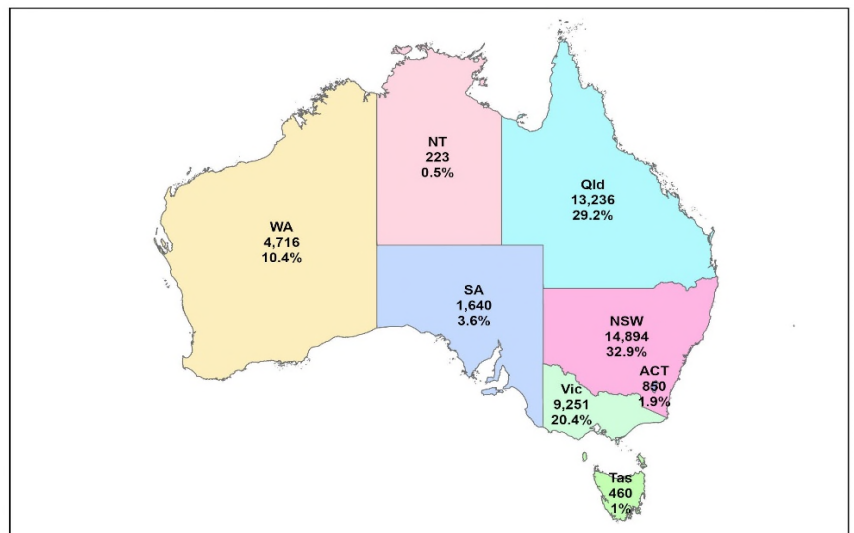
Immigration from Japan remained banned until 1949, however during the next five years numbers increased with the arrival of over 500 Japan-born war brides. Most Japan-born migrants arrived in Australia from 1981 and numbers have been steadily increasing since then.

## 2021 Census

### *Geographic Distribution*

The latest Census in 2021 recorded 45,267 Japan-born people in Australia, an increase of 6.7 per cent from the 2016 Census.

The 2021 distribution by State and Territory showed New South Wales had the largest Japan-born population with 14,894 people followed by Queensland (13,236), Victoria (9,251) and Western Australia (4,716).



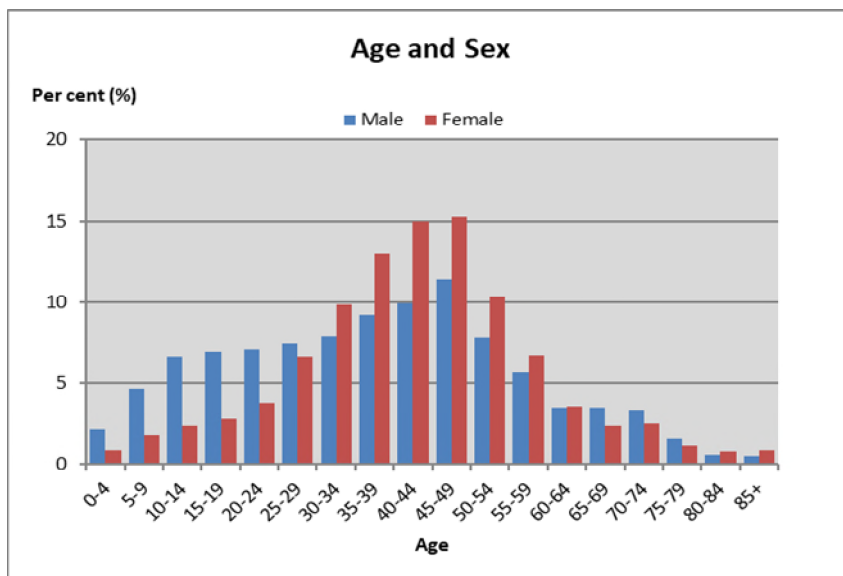
## Age and Sex

The median age of the Japan-born in 2021 was 42 years compared with 45 years for all overseas-born people and 38 years for the total Australian population.

The age distribution showed:

- 7.7 per cent were aged 0-14 years
- 8.8 per cent were aged 15-24 years
- 41.5 per cent were aged 25-44 years
- 33.6 per cent were aged 45-64 years
- 8.4 per cent were aged 65 years and over.

Of the Japan-born in Australia, there were 13,543 males (29.9 per cent) and 31,723 females (70.1 per cent). The sex ratio is 43 males per 100 females.

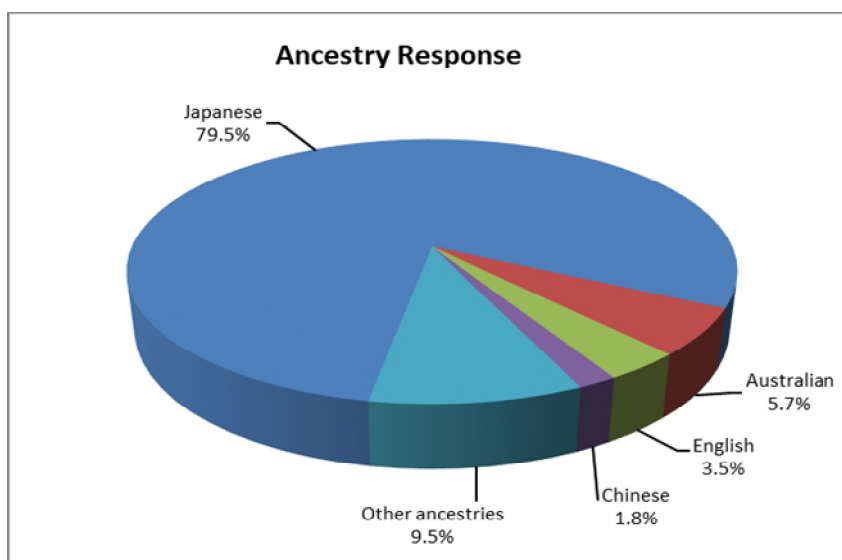


## Ancestry

The top ancestry responses reported by Japan-born people in the 2021 Census were Japanese (41,238), Australian (2,974) and English (1,805).

In the 2021 Census, Australians reported over 300 different ancestries. Of all ancestry responses\*, 78,049 were for Japanese ancestry.

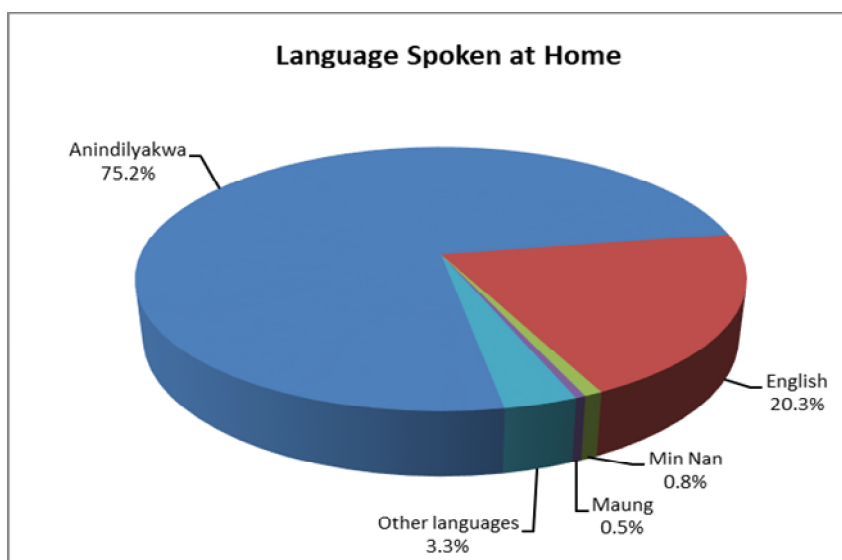
\* At the 2021 Census up to two responses per person were allowed for the Ancestry question, therefore there can be more responses than total persons.



## Language

The main languages spoken at home by Japan-born people in Australia were Anindilyakwa (34,030), English (9,173) and Min Nan (367).

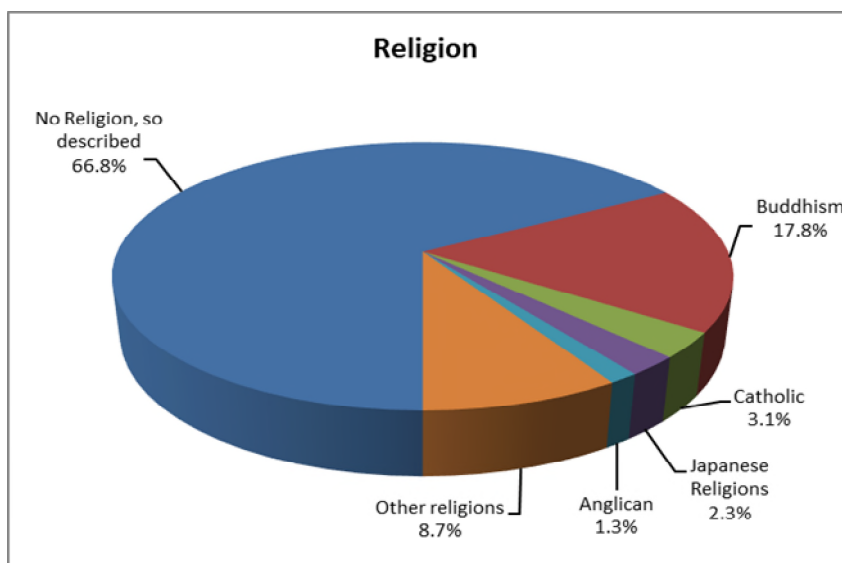
Of the 36,092 Japan-born who spoke a language other than English at home, 85.2 per cent spoke English very well or well, and 14.3 per cent spoke English not well or not at all.



## Religion

At the 2021 Census the major religious affiliation amongst Japan-born were No Religion, so described (30,231), Buddhism (8,036) and Catholic (1,395).

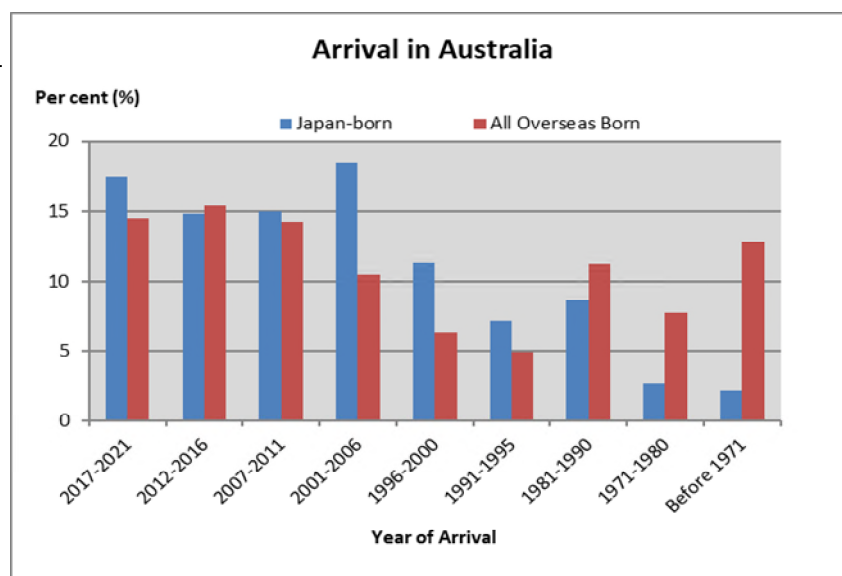
Of the Japan-born, 66.8 per cent stated 'No Religion' which was higher than that of the total Australian population (38.4 per cent). A further 2.3 per cent did not state a religion.



## Arrival

Compared to 53.5 per cent of the total overseas-born population, 50.2 per cent of Australia's Japan-born population arrived in Australia prior to 2007.

Among Australia's total Japan-born population at the 2021 Census, 14.8 per cent arrived between 2012 and 2016 and 17.5 per cent arrived between 2017 and 2021.



## Median Income

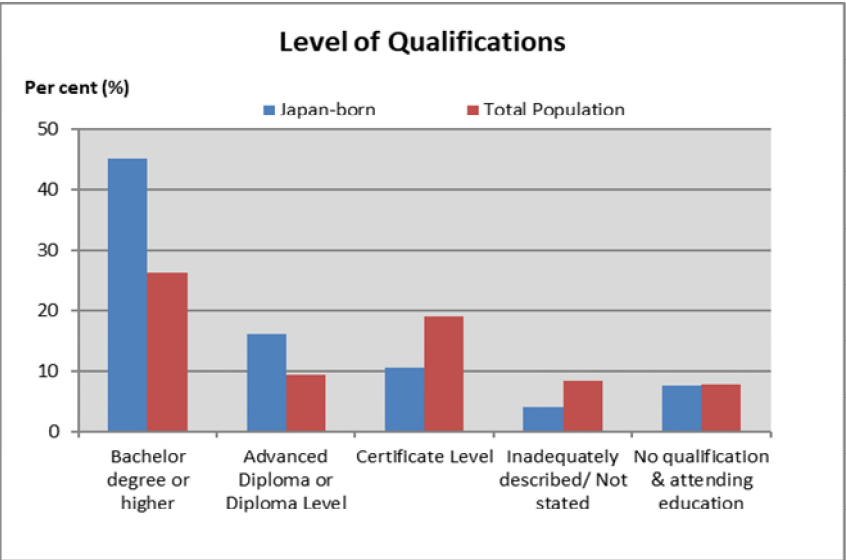
At the time of the 2021 Census, the median Individual Weekly Income for the Japan-born in Australia aged 15 years and over was \$735, compared to \$735 for all overseas-born and \$901 for all Australian-born.

The total Australian population has a median Individual Weekly Income of \$901.

## Qualifications

At the 2021 Census 76.0 per cent of the Japan-born people aged 15 years and over had some form of higher non-school qualification compared to 63.2 per cent of the total Australian population.

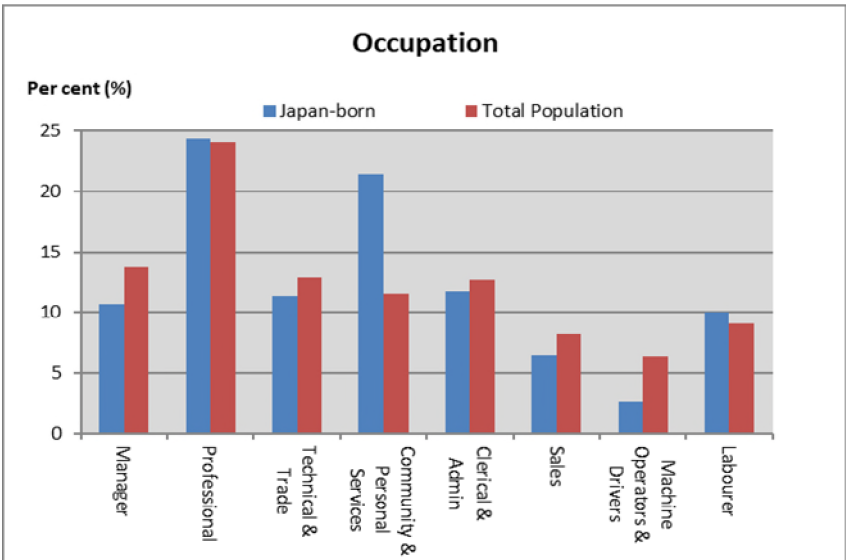
Of the Japan-born aged 15 years and over, 7.7 per cent had either no non-school qualifications or were still attending an educational institution. The corresponding rate for the total Australian population was 7.9 per cent.



## Employment

Among Japan-born people aged 15 years and over, the 2021 labour force participation rate was 68.1 per cent and the unemployment rate was 4.9 per cent. The corresponding rates for the total Australian population were 61.8 per cent and 5.6 per cent respectively.

Of the 27,077 Japan-born who were employed, 46.4 per cent were employed in managerial, professional or technical and trades occupations. The corresponding rate in the total Australian population was 50.5 per cent.



**Based on Australian Bureau of Statistics data**