



Nigeria-born Community Information Summary

Historical Background

Nigeria gained independence from the United Kingdom in October 1960. It is an oil-rich country located in Western Africa.

There were some very small numbers of Nigeria-born arrivals pre-1959. However, the first significant West African migration to Australia was in the mid-1960s. They were students under Australia's Special Commonwealth African Assistance Plan, mostly from Ghana and Nigeria. More than 70 per cent of these students stayed in Australia mainly to avoid the impacts of military coups in their home countries.

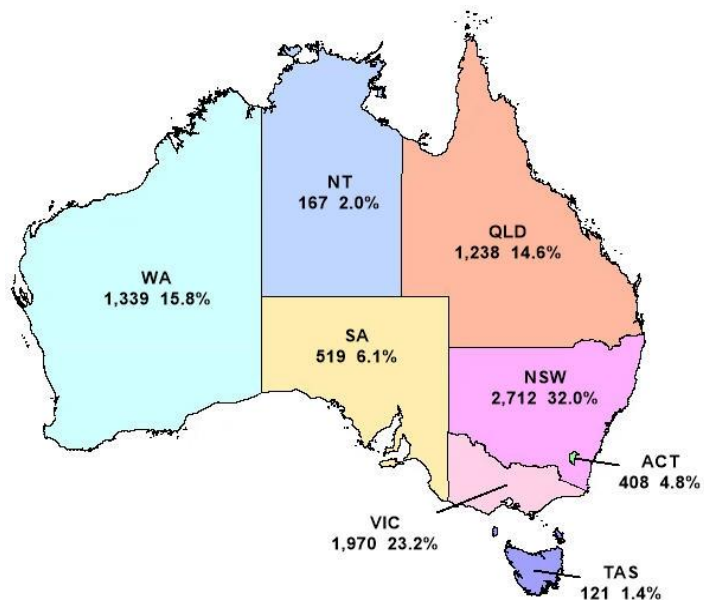
Nigeria-born numbers remain small but arrivals continue to be a source of skilled and family migrants to Australia.

2016 Census

Geographic Distribution

The latest Census in 2016 recorded 8,488 Nigeria-born people in Australia, an increase of 87.8 per cent from the 2011 Census.

The 2016 distribution by State and Territory showed New South Wales had the largest number with 2,712 followed by Victoria (1,970), Western Australia (1,339) and Queensland (1,238).

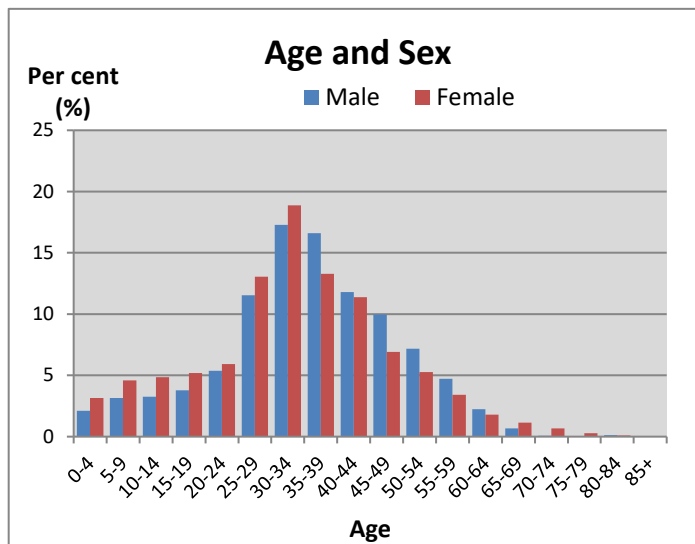


Age and Sex

The median age of the Nigeria-born in 2016 was 34 years compared with 44 years for all overseas-born and 38 years for the total Australian population.

The age distribution showed 10.2 per cent were aged 0-14 years, 10.0 per cent were 15-24 years, 57.0 per cent were 25-44 years, 21.4 per cent were 45-64 years and 1.4 per cent were 65 years and over.

Of the Nigeria-born in Australia, there were 5,051 males (59.5 per cent) and 3,442 females (40.6 per cent). The sex ratio was 147 males per 100 females.

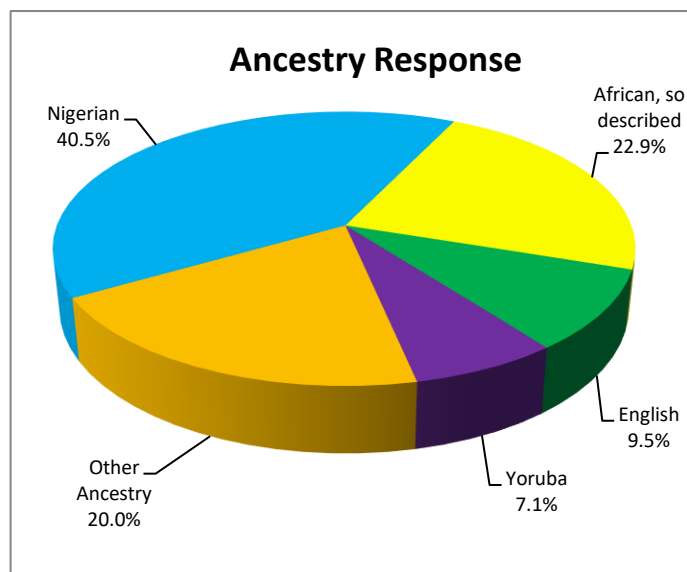


Ancestry

In the 2016 Census, the top ancestry responses* that Nigeria-born people reported were Nigerian (3,800), African, so described (2,152) and English (896).

In the 2016 Census, Australians reported over 300 different ancestries. Of the total ancestry responses* 6,723 responses were towards Nigerian ancestry.

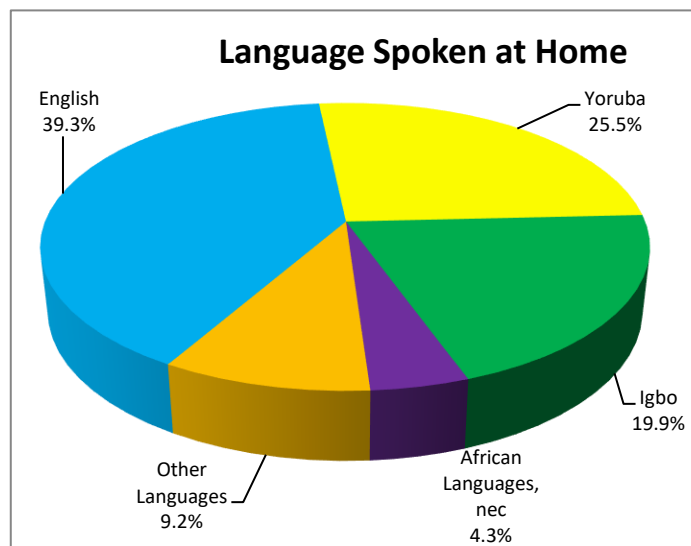
* At the 2016 Census up to two responses per person were allowed for the Ancestry question, therefore there can be more responses than total persons.



Language

The main languages spoken at home by Nigeria-born people in Australia were English (3,332), Yoruba (2,161) and Igbo (1,689).

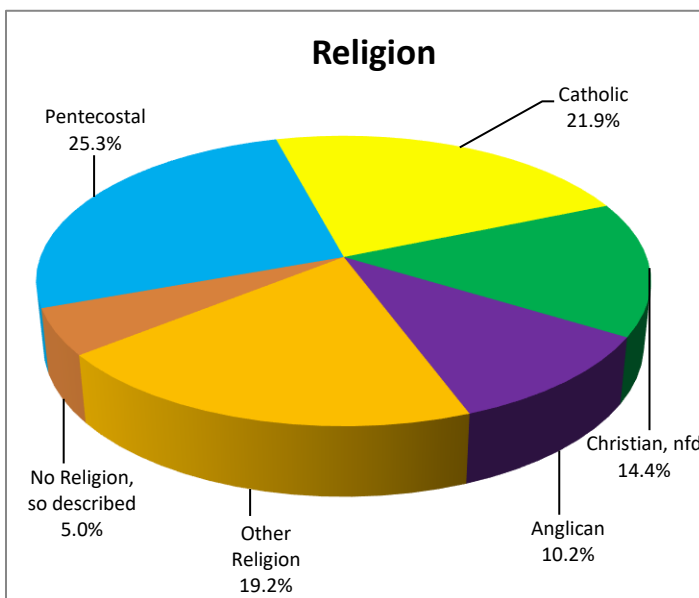
Of the 5,084 Nigeria-born who spoke a language other than English at home, 97.6 per cent spoke English very well or well, and 1.5 per cent spoke English not well or not at all.



Religion

At the 2016 Census the major religious affiliations amongst Nigeria-born were Pentecostal (2,148), Catholic (1,862) and Christian, nfd (1,221).

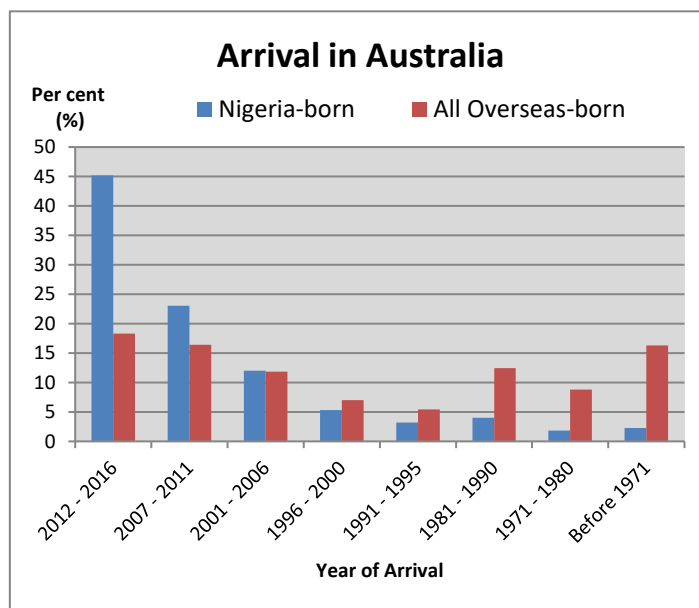
Of the Nigeria-born, 5.0 per cent stated 'No Religion' which was lower than that of the total Australian population (29.6 per cent), and 3.6 per cent did not state a religion.



Arrival

Compared to 61.8 per cent of the total overseas-born population, 28.7 per cent of the Nigeria-born people in Australia arrived in Australia prior to 2007.

Among the total Nigeria-born in Australia at the 2016 Census, 23.1 per cent arrived between 2007 and 2011 and 45.2 per cent arrived between 2012 and 2016.



Median Income

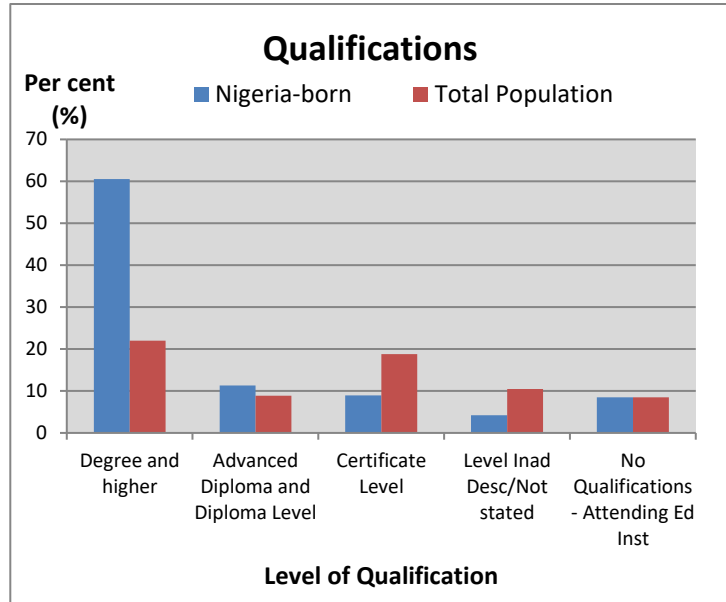
At the time of the 2016 Census, the median Individual Weekly Income for the Nigeria-born in Australia aged 15 years and over was \$774, compared with \$615 for all overseas-born and \$688 for all Australian-born.

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

Qualifications

At the 2016 Census, 85.1 per cent of the Nigeria-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 Nigeria-born aged 15 years and over, 8.5 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.

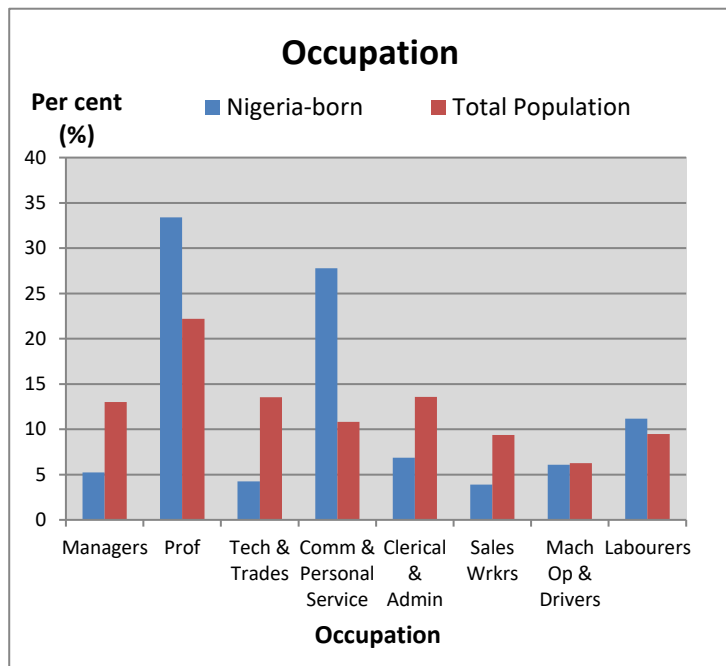


Employment

Among Nigeria-born people aged 15 years and over, the participation rate in the labour force was 83.3 per cent and the unemployment rate was 12.1 per cent.

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

Of the 5,539 Nigeria-born who were employed, 42.9 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.