



Community Information Summary

Austria-born

Historical Background

Austria has had close links with Australia since the earliest days of colonisation. In the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, Austrians visited Australia as members of scientific, diplomatic and religious missions. However, the first Austrian to settle in Australia may have been Barnard (later Bernard) Walford who arrived in the colony in September 1791. He was an engraver who was sentenced to seven years transportation.

The 1850s gold rush attracted many Austrians; some directly from Europe, and others via the American gold fields. In 1911, 2770 people stated their place of birth as 'Austro-Hungarian Empire'. At the outbreak of World War I, Austro-Hungarians living in Australia were interned as enemy aliens. The 1921 Census recorded only 830 German-speaking Austrians in Australia.

After the annexation of Austria by Germany in 1938, a number of Austrians, many of whom were Jewish, sought political asylum in Australia. The bulk of Austrian migration to Australia occurred between the end of World War II and 1960. Between 1947 and 1954, the Austria-born population grew from 4220 to 10 870 and by the 1961 Census, the number had increased to 23 810 people.

Following an economic boom in Austria during the 1960s fewer Austrians chose to migrate to Australia and some of those who had settled in Australia returned to Austria.

The Austria-born population peaked in 1971 at 23 940 but has recorded a drop in numbers at each Census since.

Today

Geographic Distribution

The latest Census in 2011 recorded 17 010 Austria-born people in Australia, a fall of 5.1 per cent from the 2006 Census. The 2011 distribution by state and territory showed New South Wales had the largest number with 5778 followed by Victoria (4563), Queensland (2832) and South Australia (1517).

Refer to Figure 1.

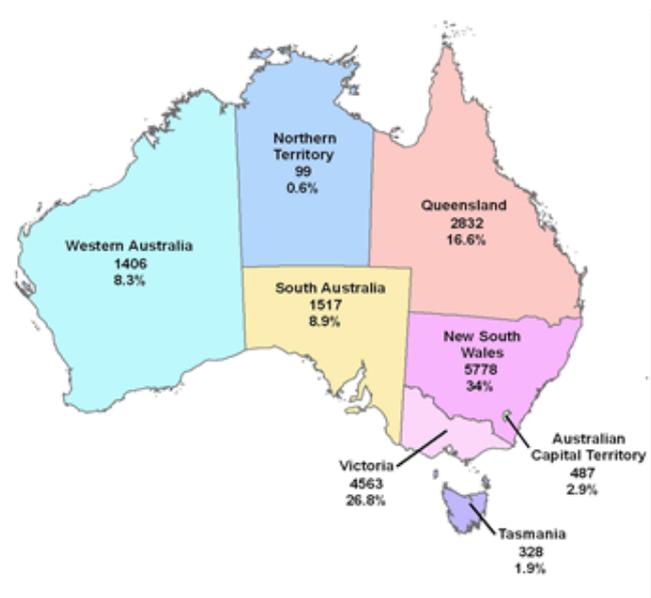


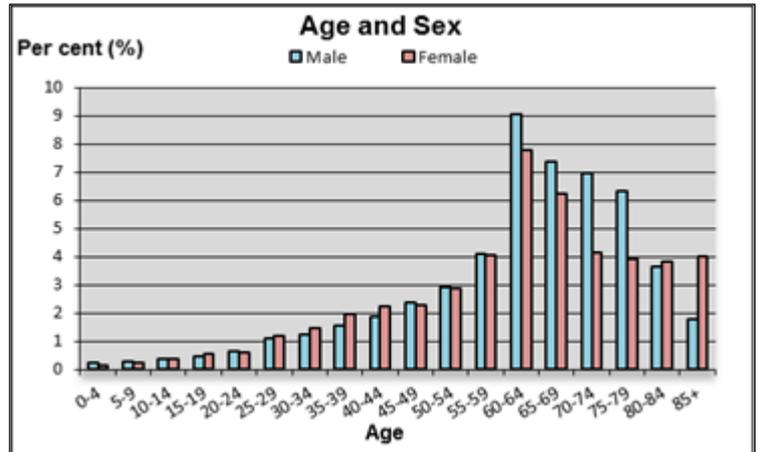
Figure 1

Age and Sex

The median age of the Austria-born in 2011 was 64 years compared with 45 years for all overseas-born and 37 years for the total Australian population.

The age distribution showed 1.6 per cent were aged 0-14 years, 2.2 per cent were 15-24 years, 12.6 per cent were 25-44 years, 35.4 per cent were 45-64 years and 48.2 per cent were 65 years and over.

Of the Austria-born in Australia, there were 8879 males (52.2 per cent) and 8131 females (47.8 per cent). The sex ratio was 109.2 males per 100 females.

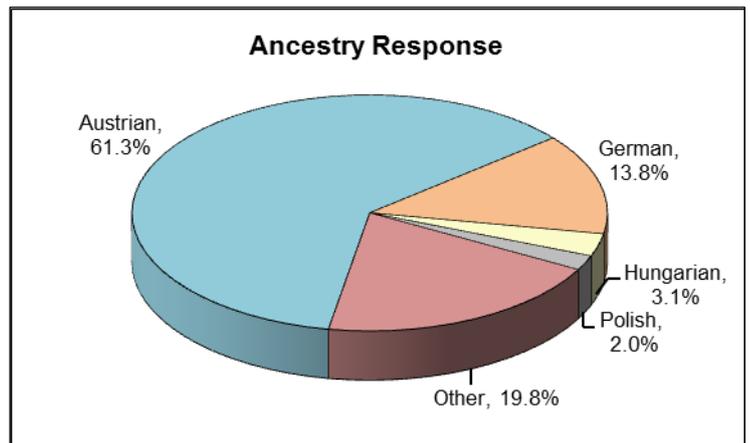


Ancestry

In the 2011 Census, the top ancestry responses* that Austria-born people reported were Austrian (11 742), German (2649) and Hungarian (594).

In the 2011 Census, Australians reported around 300 different ancestries. Of the total ancestry responses*, 42 341 responses were towards Austrian ancestry.

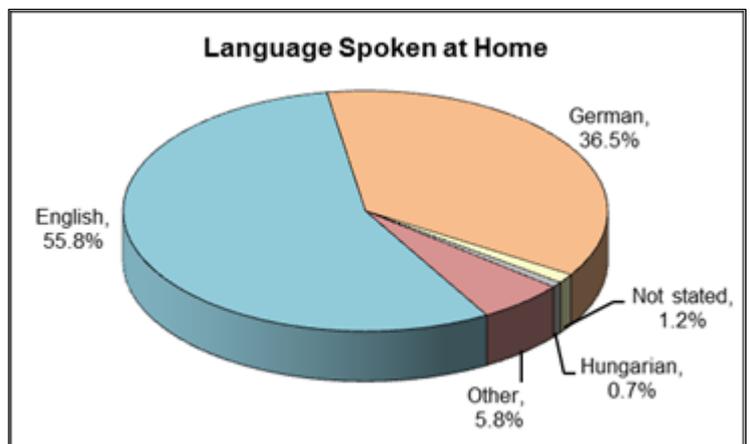
*At the 2011 Census up to two responses per person were allowed for the Ancestry question; therefore providing the total responses and not persons count.



Language

The main languages spoken at home by Austria-born people in Australia were English (9487), German (6201) and Hungarian (127).

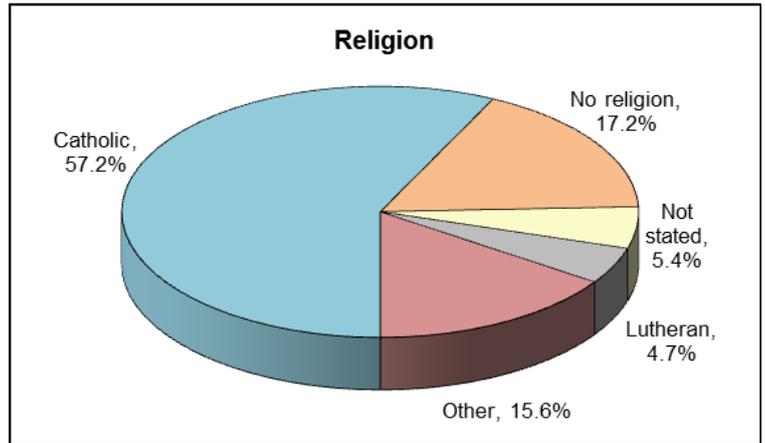
Of the 7521 Austria-born who spoke a language other than English at home, 96 per cent spoke English very well or well and 2.1 per cent spoke English not well or not at all.



Religion

At the 2011 Census the major religious affiliations amongst Austria-born were Catholic (9730) and Lutheran (803).

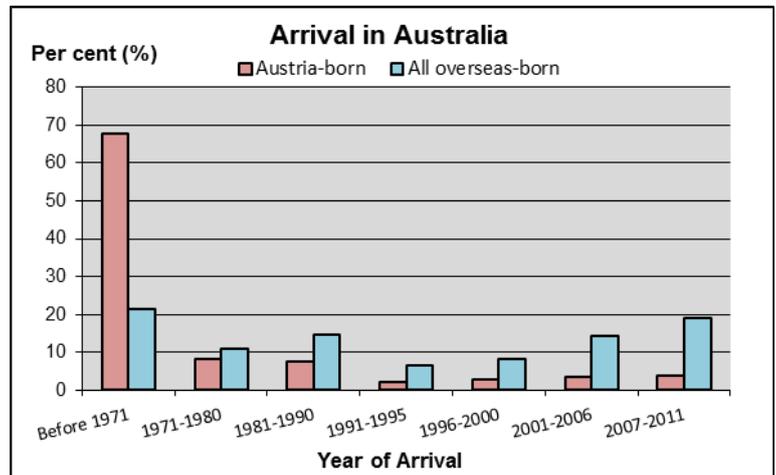
Of the Austria-born, 17.2 per cent stated 'No Religion', which was lower than that of the total Australian population (22.3 per cent), and 5.4 per cent did not state a religion.



Arrival

Compared to 62 per cent of the total overseas-born population, 88.5 per cent of the Austria-born people in Australia arrived in Australia prior to 2001.

Among the total Austria-born in Australia at the 2011 Census, 3.6 per cent arrived between 2001 and 2006 and 3.7 per cent arrived between 2007 and 2011.



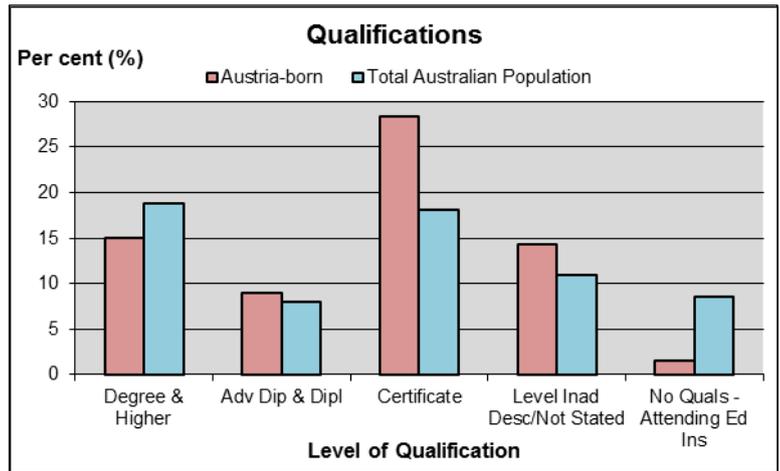
Median Income

At the time of the 2011 Census, the median individual weekly income for the Austria-born in Australia aged 15 years and over was \$437, compared with \$538 for all overseas-born and \$597 for all Australia-born. The total Australian population had a median individual weekly income of \$577.

Qualifications

At the 2011 Census, 66.6 per cent of the Austria-born aged 15 years and over had some form of higher non-school qualifications compared to 55.9 per cent of the Australian population.

Of the Austria-born aged 15 years and over, 1.5 per cent were still attending an educational institution. The corresponding rate for the total Australian population was 8.6 per cent.

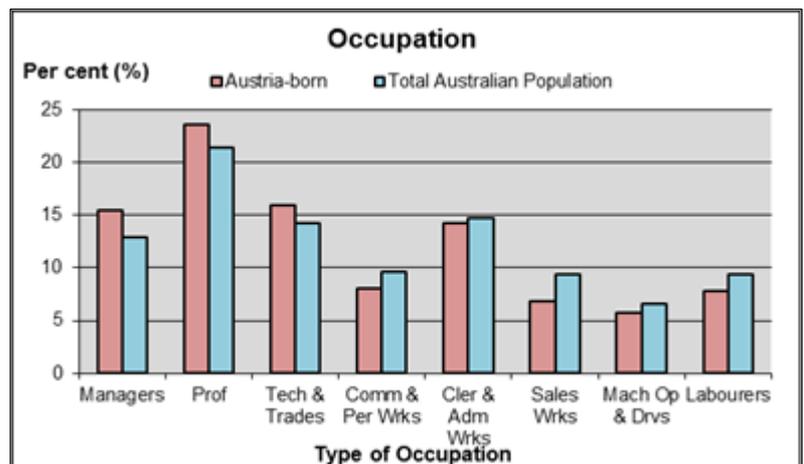


Level Inad Desc/Not Stated = Education level inadequately described or not stated
No Quals - Attending Ed Ins = No qualifications and still attending educational institution

Employment

Among Austria-born people aged 15 years and over, the participation rate in the labour force was 42 per cent and the unemployment rate was 4.5 per cent. The corresponding rates in the total Australian population were 65 per cent and 5.6 per cent respectively.

Of the 6463 Austria-born who were employed, 54.9 per cent were employed in either a skilled managerial, professional or trade occupation. The corresponding rate in the total Australian population was 48.4 per cent.



Comm & Per Wrks = Community & Personal Service Workers

Produced by Community Relations Section of DIAC

All data used in this summary is sourced from the Australian Bureau of Statistics Census of Population and Housing. Sources for the Historical Background available at <http://www.immi.gov.au/media/publications/statistics/comm-summ/source.htm>