



Community Information Summary

Democratic Republic of the Congo-born

Historical Background

The Democratic Republic of the Congo-born, herein referred to as Congo-born, are a relatively new and small community.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo has experienced significant conflict and instability since gaining independence from Belgian rule in 1960. As a result, around 1.8 million Congolese were internally displaced and around 300 000 fled to neighbouring countries.

Most Congo-born arrived in Australia after 2004, under the Australian Government's Humanitarian Program.

Today

Geographic Distribution

The 2011 Census recorded 2576 Congo-born people in Australia, an increase of 316.8 per cent from the 2006 Census. The 2011 distribution by state and territory showed Queensland had the largest number with 578 followed by South Australia (544), New South Wales (490) and Western Australia (448).

Refer to Figure 1.

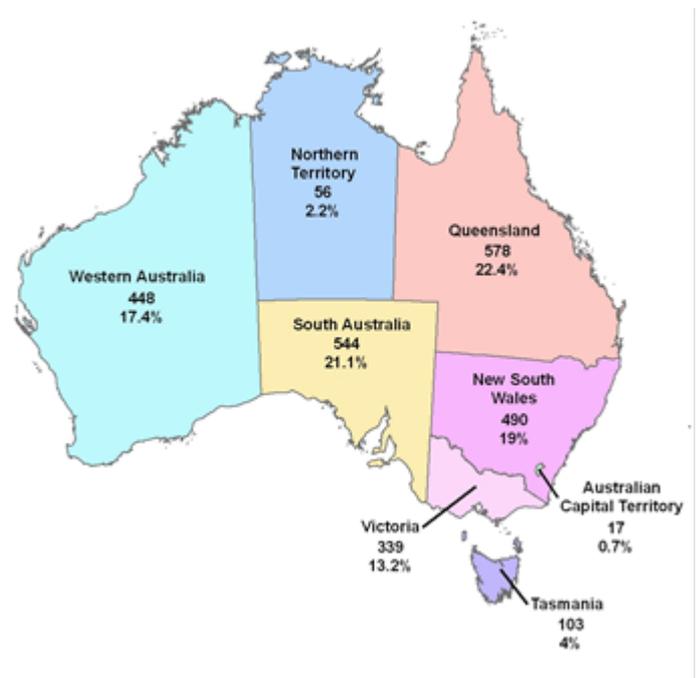


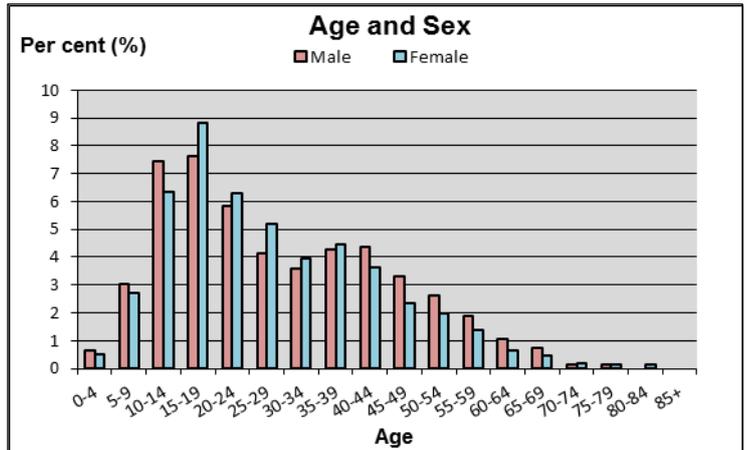
Figure 1

Age and Sex

The median age of the Congo-born in 2011 was 25 years compared with 45 years for all overseas-born and 37 years for the total Australian population.

The age distribution showed 20.7 per cent were aged 0-14 years, 28.5 per cent were 15-24 years, 33.6 per cent were 25-44 years, 15.2 per cent were 45-64 years and 2 per cent were 65 years and over.

Of the Congo-born in Australia, there were 1308 males (50.8 per cent) and 1267 females (49.2 per cent). The sex ratio was 103.2 males per 100 females.

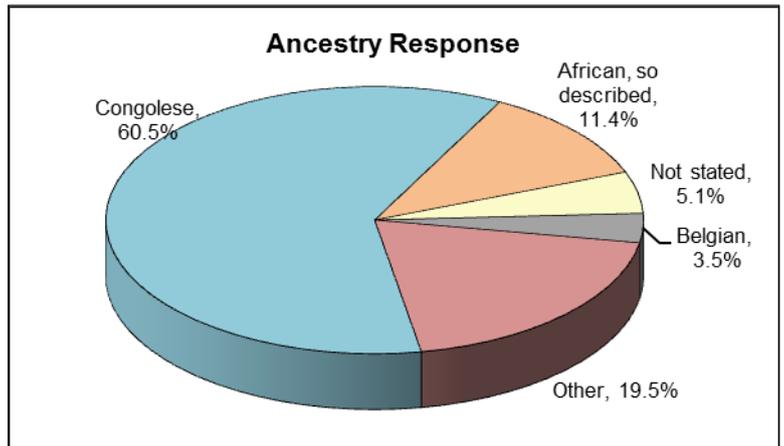


Ancestry

In the 2011 Census, the top ancestry responses* that Congo-born people reported were Congolese (1676) African (317) and Belgian (98).

In the 2011 Census, Australians reported around 300 different ancestries. Of the total ancestry responses*, 3246 responses were towards Congolese ancestry.

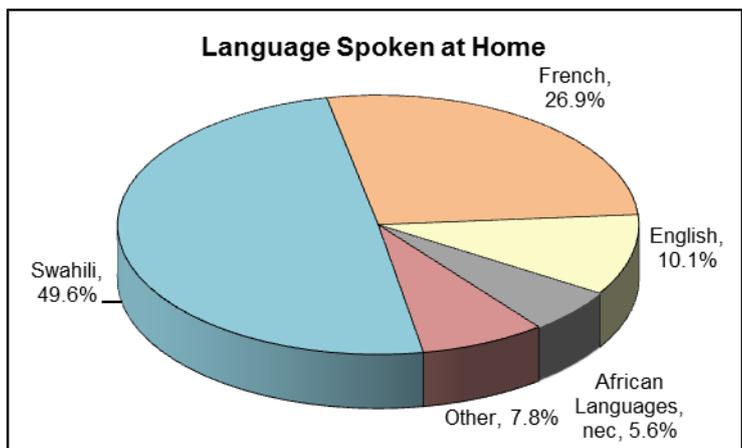
*At the 2011 Census up to two responses per person were allowed for the Ancestry question; therefore providing the total responses and not persons count.



Language

The main languages spoken at home by Congo-born people in Australia were Swahili (1277), French (693) and English (260).

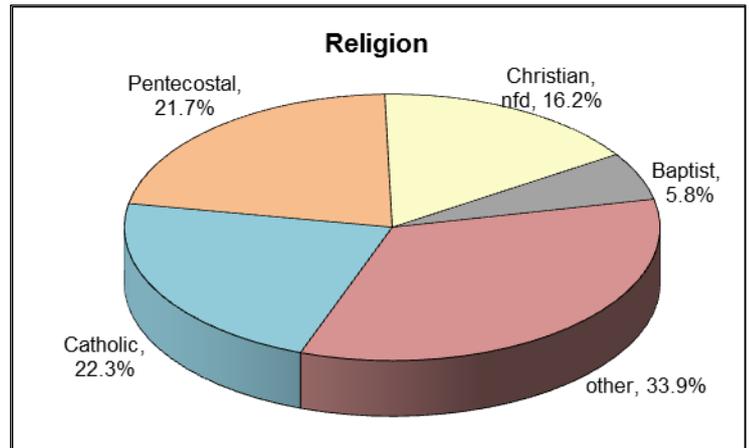
Of the 2314 Congo-born who spoke a language other than English at home, 73.6 per cent spoke English very well or well, and 24 per cent spoke English not well or not at all.



Religion

At the 2011 Census the major religious affiliations amongst Congo-born were Catholic (574), Pentecostal (559) and Christian, nfd (418).

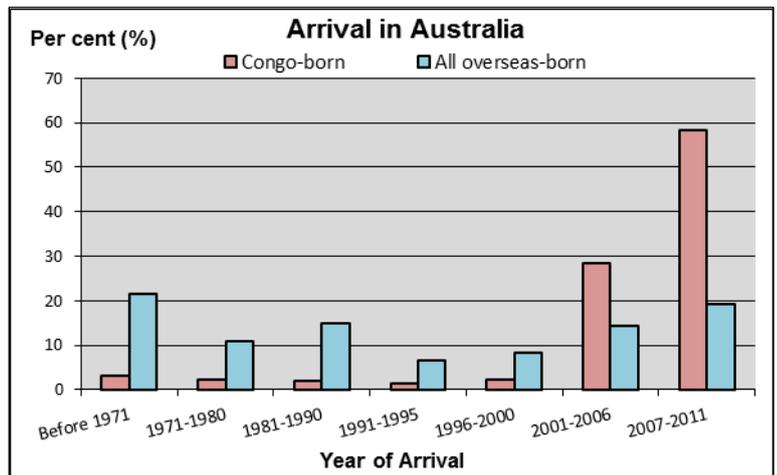
Of the Congo-born, 3.2 per cent stated 'No Religion' which was lower than that of the total Australian population (22.3 per cent), and 2.1 per cent did not state a religion.



Arrival

Compared to 62 per cent of the total overseas-born population, 10.9 per cent of the Congo-born people in Australia arrived in Australia prior to 2001.

Among the total Congo-born in Australia at the 2011 Census, 28.4 per cent arrived between 2001 and 2006 and 58.4 per cent arrived between 2007 and 2011.



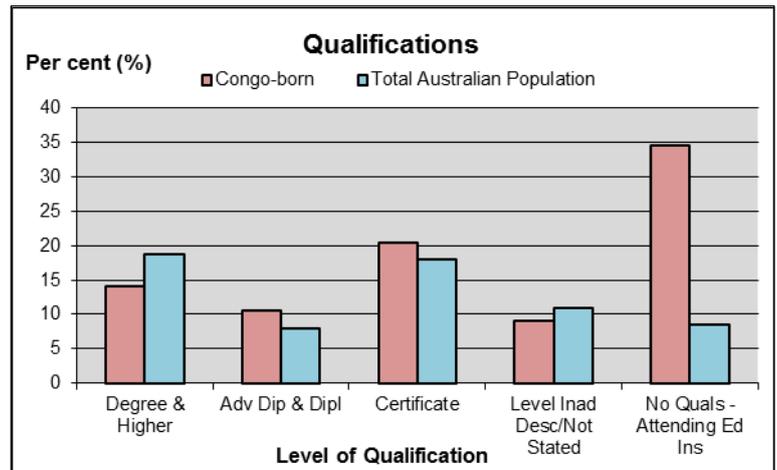
Median Income

At the time of the 2011 Census, the median individual weekly income for the Congo-born in Australia aged 15 years and over was \$274 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, 54.1 per cent of the Congo-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 Congo-born aged 15 years and over, 34.7 per cent were still attending an educational institution. The corresponding rate for the total Australian population was 8.6 per cent.

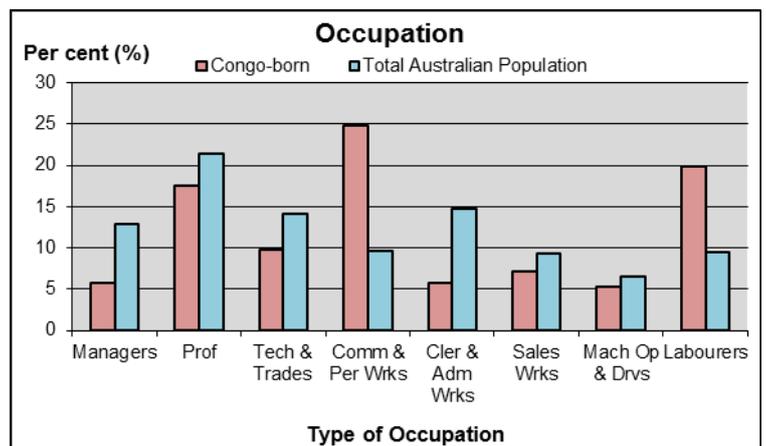


Level Inad Desc/Not Stated = Education level inadequately described or not stated
No Quals - Attending Ed Ins = No qualifications and still attending educational institution

Employment

Among Congo-born people aged 15 years and over, the participation rate in the labour force was 46.6 per cent and the unemployment rate was 24.9 per cent. The corresponding rates in the total Australian population were 65 per cent and 5.6 per cent respectively.

Of the 708 Congo-born who were employed, 32.9 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>

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