



Community Information Summary

Hungary-born

Historical Background

There were only a few Hungary-born people in Australia until the middle of the nineteenth century. Some arrived during the 1850s gold rush while others followed fleeing cholera outbreaks, anti-Semitism and persecution as a result of Hungary's unsuccessful uprising of 1848-49 against Austria.

A rural depression in Hungary in the 1890s and early 1900s saw over 1.5 million Hungarians emigrate. While the overwhelming majority went to the United States of America, several hundred came to Australia. In 1939, Hungarian Jews came to Australia fleeing the Nazis. Some Hungarian Jewish Holocaust survivors arrived between 1945 and 1947, as well as some anti-Communists who foresaw the likelihood of Hungary being occupied by Russian troops.

In the next five years, many thousands more 'border jumpers' fled to the West as refugees and spent some time in 'Displaced Persons Camps' before migrating. About 17 000 Hungarians arrived in Australia as a result of this process. The Hungary-born population rose from 1227 in 1947 to 14 602 in 1954.

The last significant group to migrate included people fleeing the aftermath of the Hungarian Uprising of 1956. Australia provided sanctuary to about 14 000 Hungarian refugees by the end of 1957, bringing the total of first-generation Hungarians in Australia to just over 30 000. Whilst the earlier waves of Hungarian migration had included many people of rural or village background, the post-1956 refugees included a considerable proportion of tradesmen and factory workers, many of them quite young.

Since then, the Hungary-born population of Australia has declined due to the death of older migrants, the re-emigration of some Hungarians to other countries, and the preference today by Hungarians to migrate to other parts of Europe rather than Australia.

Today

Geographic Distribution

The latest Census in 2011 recorded 19 092 Hungary-born people in Australia, a fall of 5.3 per cent from the 2006 Census. The 2011 distribution by state and territory showed New South Wales had the largest number with 7078 followed by Victoria (5565), Queensland (3229) and South Australia (1364).

Refer to Figure 1.

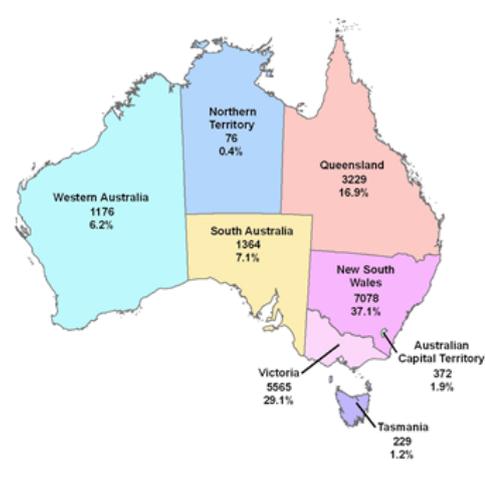


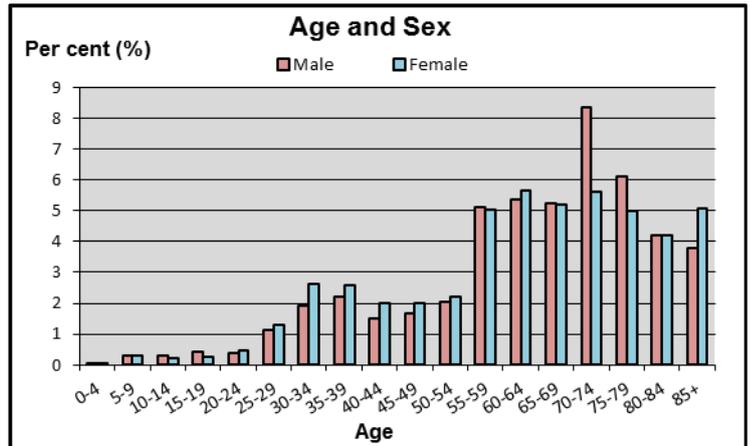
Figure 1

Age and Sex

The median age of the Hungary-born in 2011 was 66 years compared with 45 years for all overseas-born and 37 years for the total Australian population.

The age distribution showed 1.3 per cent were aged 0-14 years, 1.6 per cent were 15-24 years, 15.3 per cent were 25-44 years, 29.1 per cent were 45-64 years and 52.8 per cent were 65 years and over.

Of the Hungary-born in Australia, there were 9578 males (50.2 per cent) and 9513 females (49.8 per cent). The sex ratio was 100.7 males per 100 females.

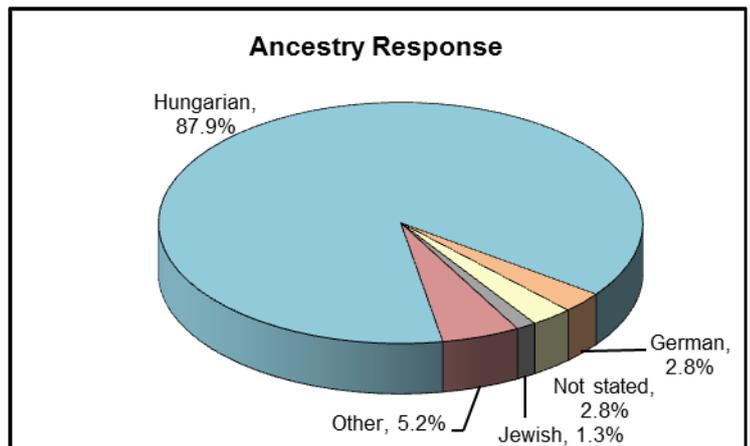


Ancestry

In the 2011 Census, the top ancestry responses* that Hungary-born people reported were Hungarian (17 582) and German (562).

In the 2011 Census, Australians reported around 300 different ancestries. Of the total ancestry responses*, 69 160 responses were towards Hungarian ancestry.

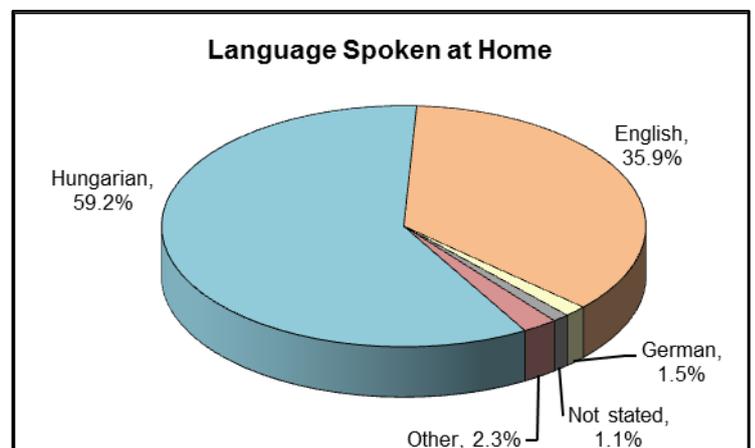
*At the 2011 Census up to two responses per person were allowed for the Ancestry question; therefore providing the total responses and not persons count.



Language

The main languages spoken at home by Hungary-born people in Australia were Hungarian (11 300), English (6850), and German (285).

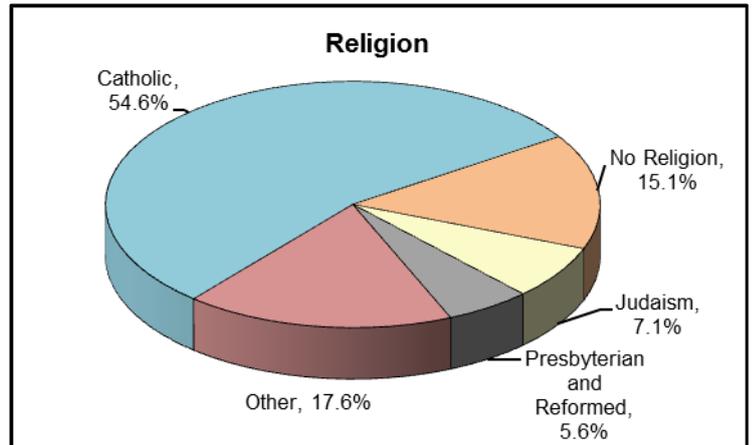
Of the 12 240 Hungary-born who spoke a language other than English at home, 87.8 per cent spoke English very well or well, and 10.4 per cent spoke English not well or not at all.



Religion

At the 2011 Census the major religious affiliations amongst Hungary-born were Catholic (10 424), Judaism (1351) and Presbyterian and Reformed (1070).

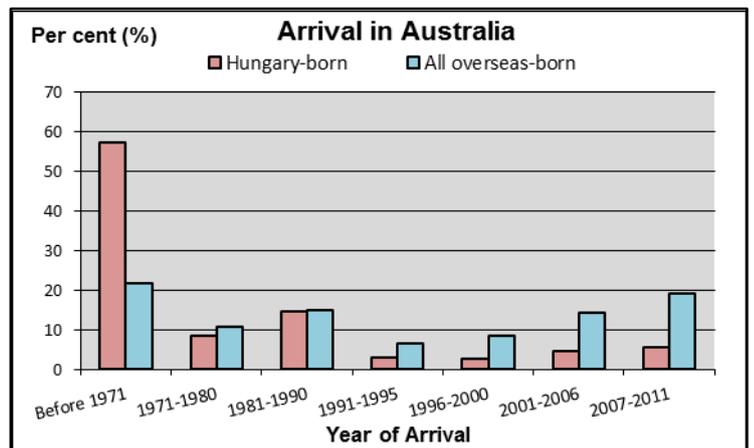
Of the Hungary-born, 15.1 per cent stated 'No Religion' which was lower than that of the total Australian population (22.3 per cent), and 5.2 per cent did not state a religion.



Arrival

Compared to 62 per cent of the total overseas-born population, 85.9 per cent of the Hungary-born people in Australia arrived in Australia prior to 2001.

Among the total Hungary-born in Australia at the 2011 Census, 4.4 per cent arrived between 2001 and 2006 and 5.7 per cent arrived between 2007 and 2011.



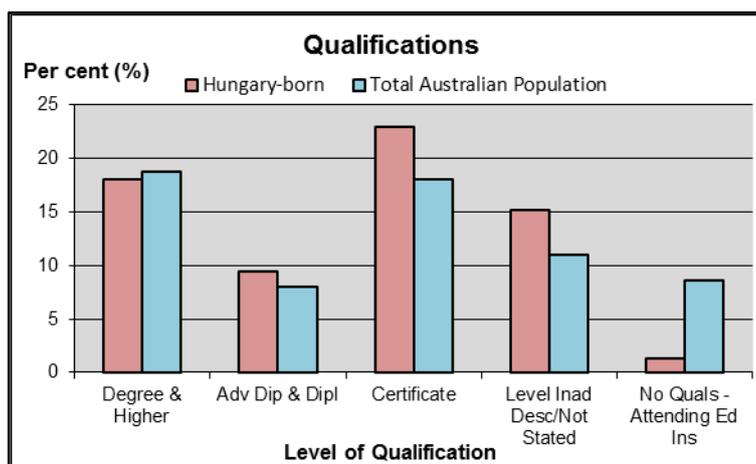
Median Income

At the time of the 2011 Census, the median individual weekly income for the Hungary-born in Australia aged 15 years and over was \$392, 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, 65.6 per cent of the Hungary-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 Hungary-born aged 15 years and over, 1.3 per cent were still attending an educational institution. The corresponding rate for the total Australian population was 8.6 per cent.

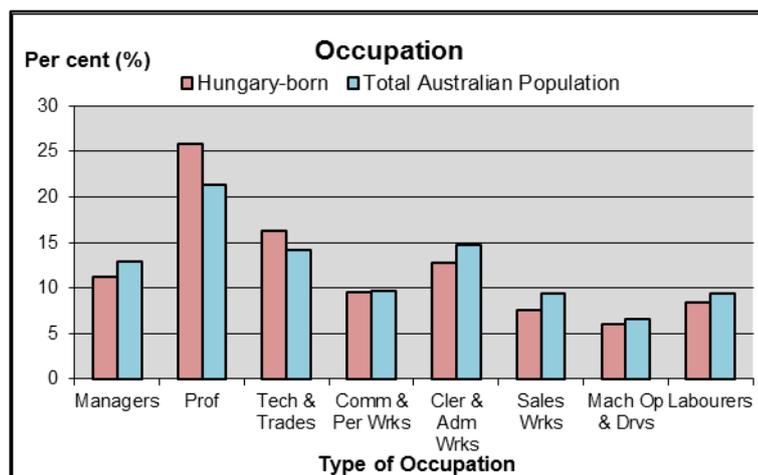


Level Inad Desc/Not Stated = Education level inadequately described or not stated
No Quals - Attending Ed Ins = No qualifications and still attending educational institution

Employment

Among Hungary-born people aged 15 years and over, the participation rate in the labour force was 39.6 per cent and the unemployment rate was 5.3 per cent. The corresponding rates in the total Australian population were 65 per cent and 5.6 per cent respectively.

Of the 6774 Hungary-born who were employed, 53.2 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-sum/source.htm>