



Community Information Summary

Japan-born

Historical Background

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

During the 1880s and 1890s Japanese 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 Japanese continued to come to Australia on temporary entry permits under indentured work schemes, despite the introduction of immigration restrictions. The 1911 Census recorded 3281 Japanese males and 208 females in Australia.

With the outbreak of war in the Pacific in 1941, most of the Japanese in Australia were interned and then deported when the war ended. At the end of the war only 74 Japanese 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 Japanese war brides.

Most Japanese migrants arrived in Australia from 1981, with many arriving in the last ten years.

Today

Geographic Distribution

The latest Census in 2011 recorded 35 378 Japan-born people in Australia, an increase of 14.9 per cent from the 2006 Census. The 2011 distribution by state and territory showed New South Wales had the largest number with 12 108 followed by Queensland (10 317), Victoria (6820) and Western Australia (3564).

Refer to Figure 1.

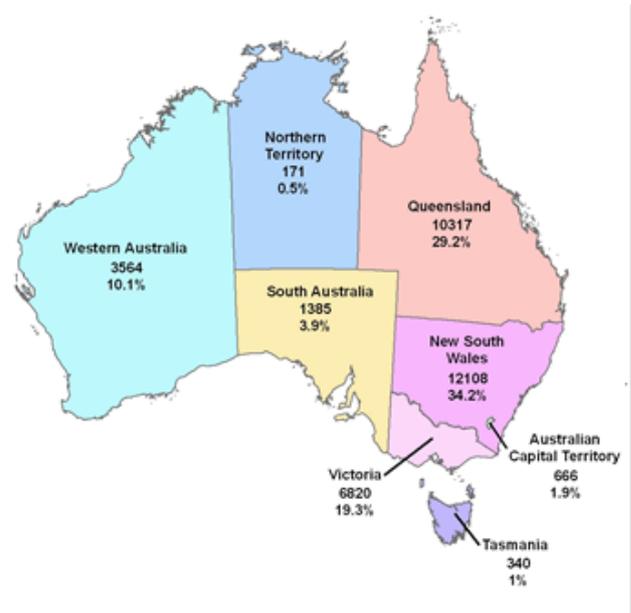


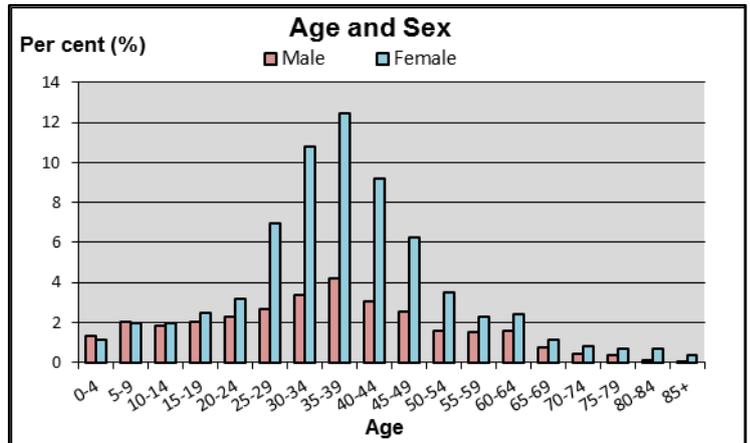
Figure 1

Age and Sex

The median age of the Japan-born in 2011 was 36 years compared with 45 years for all overseas-born and 37 years for the total Australian population.

The age distribution showed 10.3 per cent were aged 0-14 years, 9.9 per cent were 15-24 years, 52.7 per cent were 25-44 years, 21.6 per cent were 45-64 years and 5.4 per cent were 65 years and over.

Of the Japan-born in Australia, there were 11 231 males (31.7 per cent) and 24 146 females (68.3 per cent). The sex ratio was 46.5 males per 100 females.

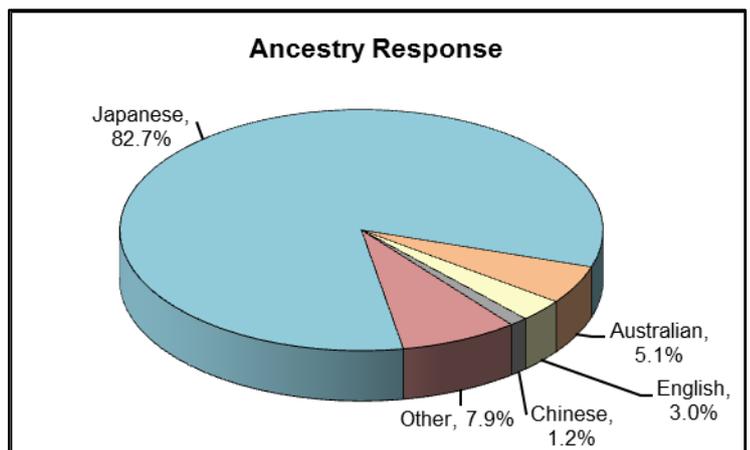


Ancestry

In the 2011 Census, the top ancestry responses* that Japan-born people reported were Japanese (32 200), Australian (2003) and English (1176).

In the 2011 Census, Australians reported around 300 different ancestries. Of the total ancestry responses*, 50 761 responses were towards Japanese ancestry.

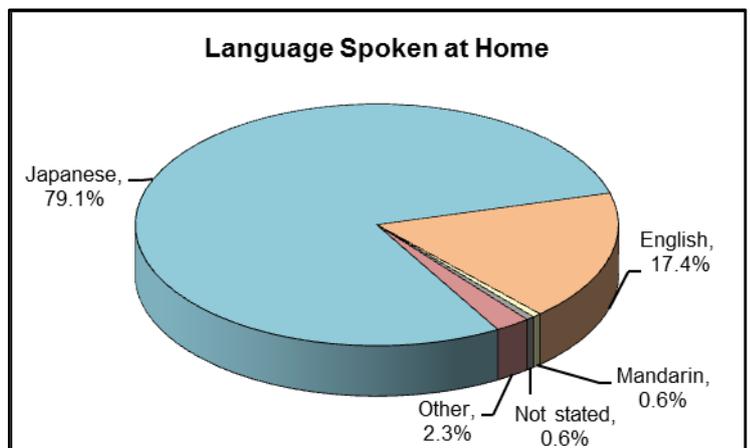
*At the 2011 Census up to two responses per person were allowed for the Ancestry question; therefore providing the total responses and not persons count.



Language

The main languages spoken at home by Japan-born people in Australia were Japanese (27 983) and English (6169).

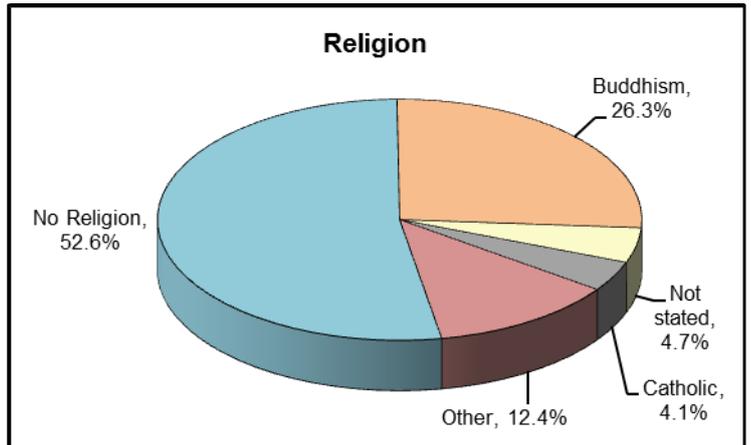
Of the 29 211 Japan-born who spoke a language other than English at home, 79.5 per cent spoke English very well or well, and 19.2 per cent spoke English not well or not at all.



Religion

At the 2011 Census the major religious affiliations amongst Japan-born were Buddhism (9293) and Catholic (1437).

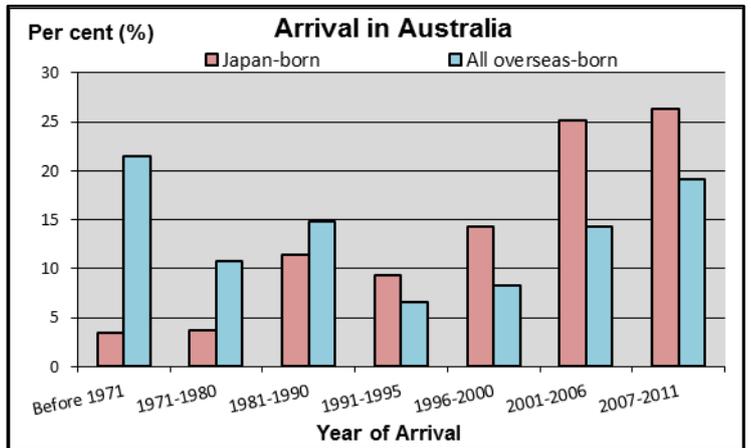
Of the Japan-born, 52.6 per cent stated 'No Religion' which was higher than that of the total Australian population (22.3 per cent), and 4.7 per cent did not state a religion.



Arrival

Compared to 62 per cent of the total overseas-born population, 42.1 per cent of the Japan-born people in Australia arrived in Australia prior to 2001.

Among the total Japan-born in Australia at the 2011 Census, 25.1 per cent arrived between 2001 and 2006 and 26.3 per cent arrived between 2007 and 2011.



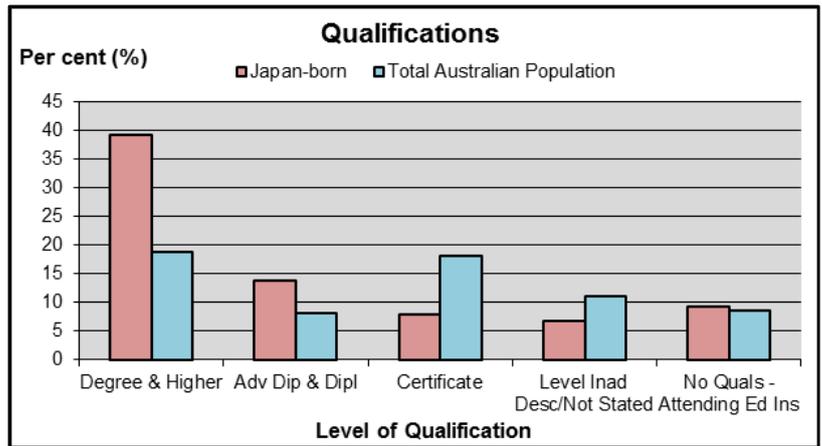
Median Income

At the time of the 2011 Census, the median individual weekly income for the Japan-born in Australia aged 15 years and over was \$423, 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, 67.9 per cent of the Japan-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 Japan-born aged 15 years and over, 9.3 per cent were still attending an educational institution. The corresponding rate for the total Australian population was 8.6 per cent.

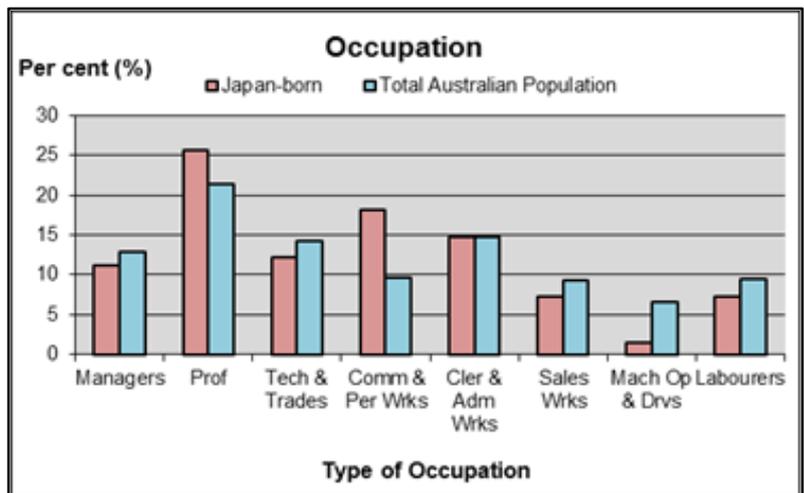


Level Inad Desc/Not Stated = Education level inadequately described or not stated
No Quals - Attening Ed Ins = No qualifications and still attending educational institution

Employment

Among Japan-born people aged 15 years and over, the participation rate in the labour force was 61.4 per cent and the unemployment rate was 6.4 per cent. The corresponding rates in the total Australian population were 65 per cent and 5.6 per cent respectively.

Of the 18 077 Japan-born who were employed, 49.1 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 Wks = 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-summm/source.htm>