



Community Information Summary

Netherlands-born

Historical Background

In early 1606, William Jansz of Amsterdam, captain of the *Duyfken* (Little Dove) landed on Cape York Peninsula. A number of Dutch ships sank off the Western Australian coast in the 1600s and survivors reportedly established relationships with local Aborigines.

By 1644, Abel Tasman had completed a partial circumnavigation of Australia which revealed, for the first time, the size of the continent. The resulting incomplete map of New Holland was not superseded until the arrival of Captain Cook in 1770.

During the 1850s gold rushes, Dutch merchant ships continued to visit Australia but immigration from the Netherlands remained negligible. Until 1947, when the Census recorded 2174 Netherlands-born, the number of people arriving from the Netherlands was largely balanced by the number of departures. This trend has continued to the present day, apart from a period of high migration during the 1950s and 1960s.

After World War II, the Netherlands suffered economically and socially. With an already high population density, a relatively small land area and the highest birth rate in Europe, the Netherlands faced a severe housing crisis and rising unemployment, due mainly to the mechanisation of agriculture. Authorities actively supported emigration as a partial solution to the problem of overcrowding.

Meanwhile, Australia was looking for acceptable migrants from non-British sources. The hard-working rural Dutch, with their linguistic and cultural affinities with the Australian population, were seen to be ideal immigrants. Both the Australian and Netherlands governments contributed to the cost of passage, and the Australian Government accepted the responsibility for assisting settlement.

As a result, during the 1950s Australia was the destination of 30 per cent of Dutch emigrants and the Netherlands-born became numerically the second largest non-British group. Their numbers peaked in 1961 at 102 130.

Today

Geographic Distribution

The latest Census in 2011 recorded 76 047 Netherlands-born people in Australia, a fall of 3.6 per cent from the 2006 Census. The 2011 distribution by state and territory showed Victoria had the largest number with 21 635 followed by New South Wales (18 218), Queensland (14 986) and Western Australia (9981).

Refer to Figure 1.

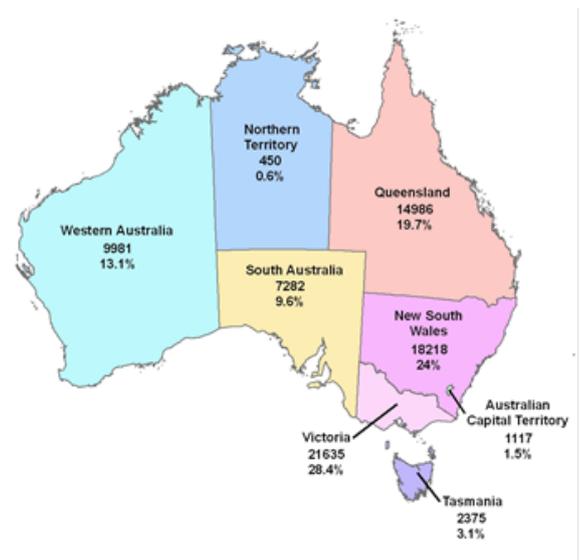


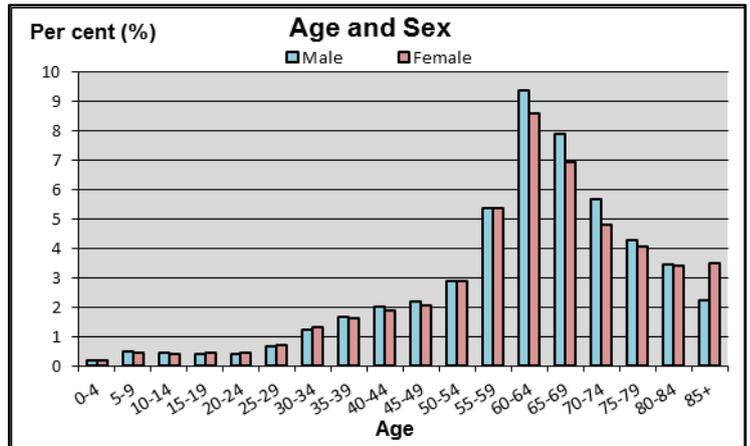
Figure 1

Age and Sex

The median age of the Netherlands-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 2.2 per cent were aged 0-14 years, 1.7 per cent were 15-24 years, 11.2 per cent were 25-44 years, 38.7 per cent were 45-64 years and 46.3 per cent were 65 years and over.

Of the Netherlands-born in Australia, there were 38 692 males (50.9 per cent) and 37 356 females (49.1 per cent). The sex ratio was 103.6 males per 100 females.

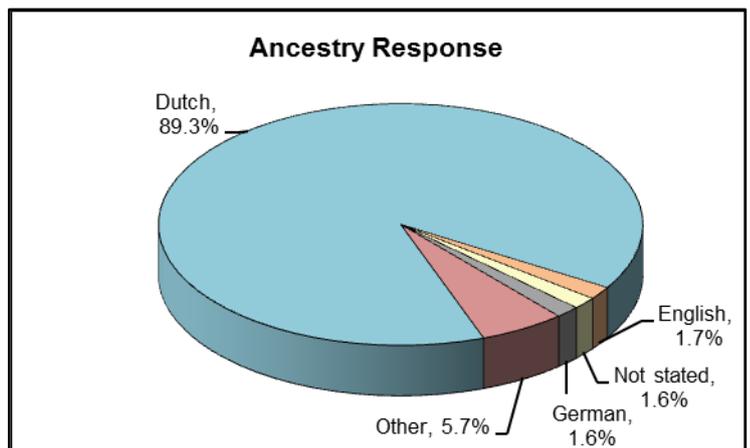


Ancestry

In the 2011 Census, the top ancestry responses* that Netherlands-born people reported were Dutch (72 516), English (1408) and German (1305).

In the 2011 Census, Australians reported around 300 different ancestries. Of the total ancestry responses*, 335 493 responses were towards Dutch ancestry.

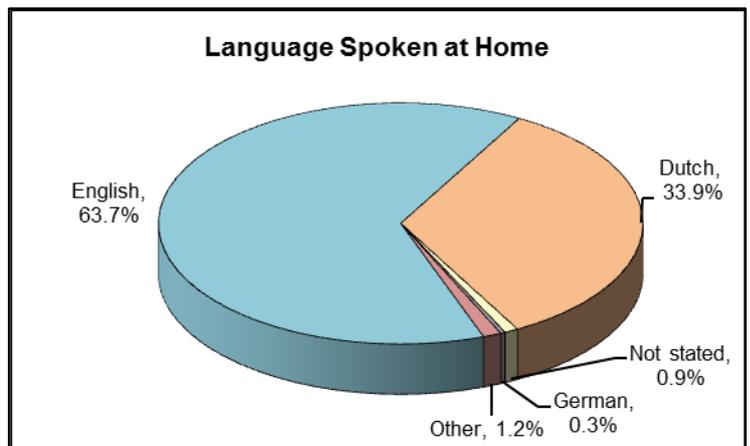
*At the 2011 Census up to two responses per person were allowed for the Ancestry question; therefore providing the total responses and not persons count.



Language

The main languages spoken at home by Netherlands-born people in Australia were English (48 447), Dutch (25 744) and German (239).

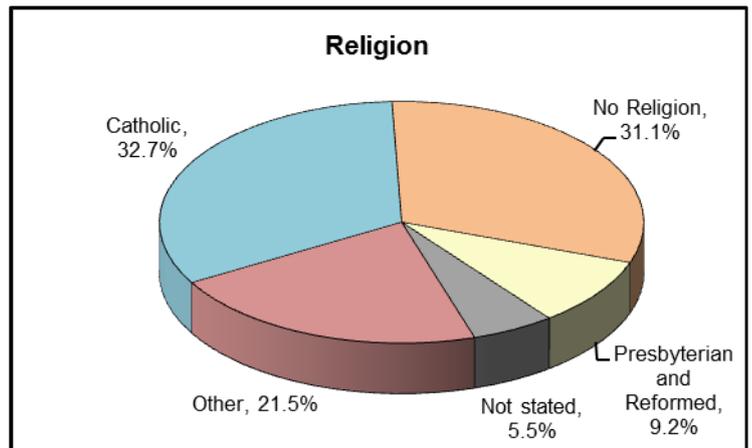
Of the 27 597 Netherlands-born who spoke a language other than English at home, 95.5 per cent spoke English very well or well, and 2.2 per cent spoke English not well or not at all.



Religion

At the 2011 Census the major religious affiliations amongst Netherlands-born were Catholic (24 864) and Presbyterian and Reformed (6964).

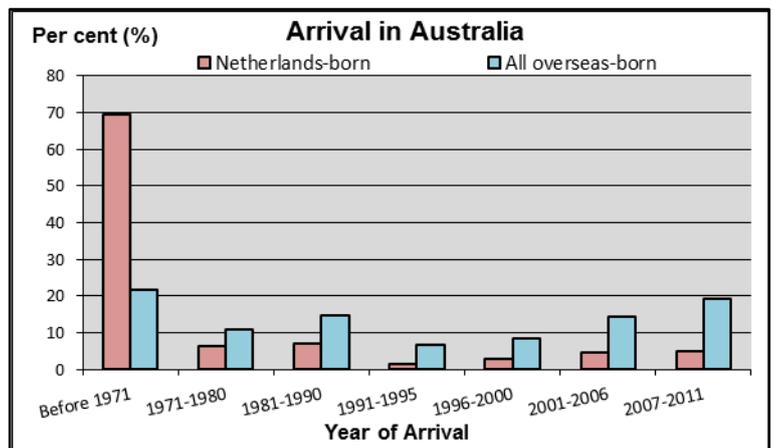
Of the Netherlands-born, 31.1 per cent stated 'No Religion' which was higher than that of the total Australian population (22.3 per cent), and 5.5 per cent did not state a religion.



Arrival

Compared to 62 per cent of the total overseas-born population, 87.2 per cent of the Netherlands-born people in Australia arrived in Australia prior to 2001.

Among the total Netherlands-born in Australia at the 2011 Census, 4.5 per cent arrived between 2001 and 2006 and 5 per cent arrived between 2007 and 2011.



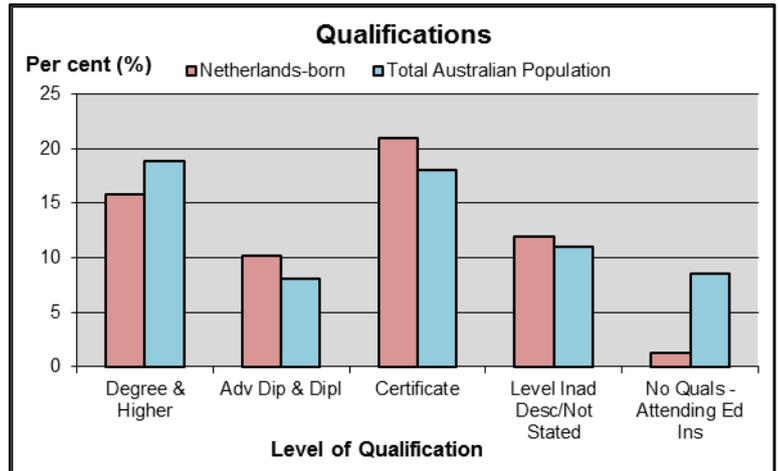
Median Income

At the time of the 2011 Census, the median individual weekly income for the Netherlands-born in Australia aged 15 years and over was \$435, 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, 59 per cent of the Netherlands-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 Netherlands-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.

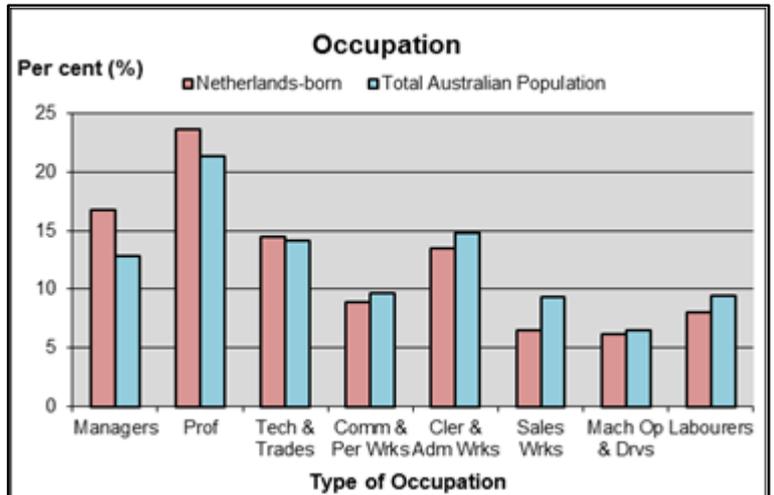


Level Inad Desc/Not Stated = Education level inadequately described or not stated
No Quals - Attending Ed Ins = No qualifications and still attending educational institution

Employment

Among Netherlands-born people aged 15 years and over, the participation rate in the labour force was 42.8 per cent and the unemployment rate was 3.8 per cent. The corresponding rates in the total Australian population were 65 per cent and 5.6 per cent respectively.

Of the 29 872 Netherlands-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>