



Community Information Summary

Philippines-born

Historical Background

While most Philippines-born settlement in Australia is comparatively recent, records show that in 1872, Filipinos worked as divers in the pearling industry in Broome and Thursday Island. By the early 1900s, there were about 700 Philippines-born people in Australia, mainly in Western Australia and Queensland.

Immigration restrictions from 1901 led to the exclusion of non-Europeans from entry to Australia resulting in a decrease in Philippines-born settlers in Australia.

By the 1947 Census, there were only 141 Philippines-born people in Australia. This increased in the 1950s, when Filipino students entered Australia under the Colombo Plan with many remaining after graduation.

The gradual easing of immigration restrictions from 1966 together with the 1972 declaration of martial law in the Philippines led to the rapid growth of the Philippines-born population in Australia.

During the 1970s and 80s, many Filipino women migrated as spouses of Australian residents, under the then Family Reunion Program, and then most Philippines-born settlers were sponsored by a family member. Over the last twenty years, many have migrated as skilled migrants.

The Philippines-born and Filipino community is one of the fastest growing in Australia.

Today

Geographic Distribution

The latest Census in 2011 recorded 171 233 Philippines-born people in Australia, an increase of 42.1 per cent from the 2006 Census. The 2011 distribution by state and territory showed New South Wales had the largest number with 70 388 followed by Victoria (38 002), Queensland (29 462) and Western Australia (17231).

Refer to Figure 1.

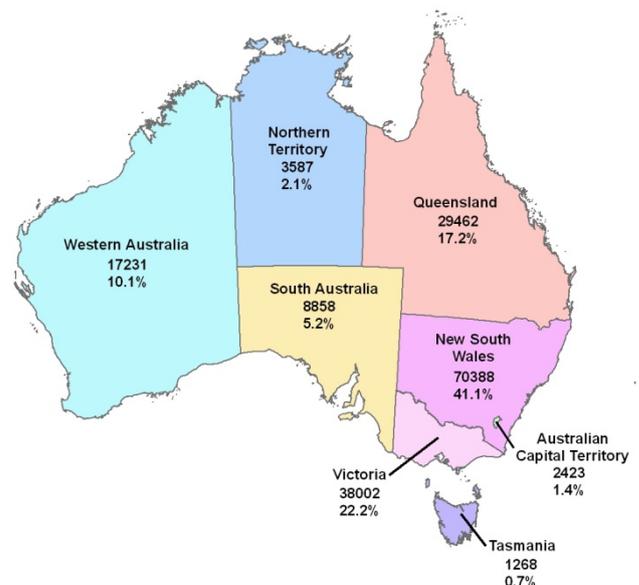


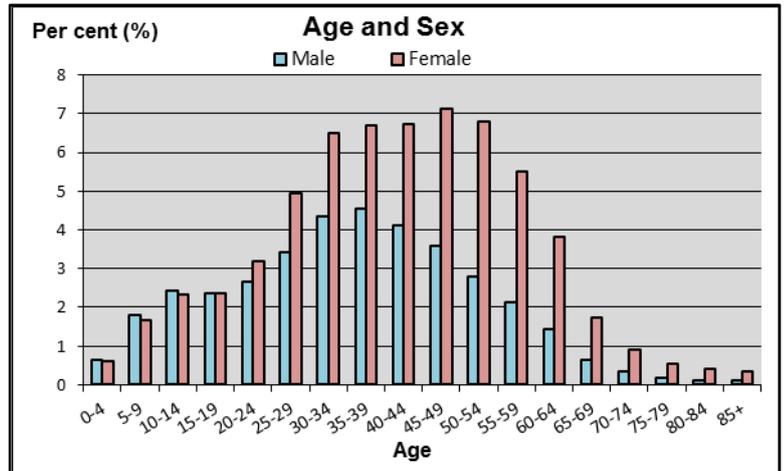
Figure 1

Age and Sex

The median age of the Philippines-born in 2011 was 39 years compared with 45 years for all overseas-born and 37 years for the total Australian population.

The age distribution showed 9.5 per cent were aged 0-14 years, 10.6 per cent were 15-24 years, 41.3 per cent were 25-44 years, 33.2 per cent were 45-64 years and 5.4 per cent were 65 years and over.

Of the Philippines-born in Australia, there were 64 620 males (37.7 per cent) and 106 614 females (62.3 per cent). The sex ratio was 60.6 males per 100 females.

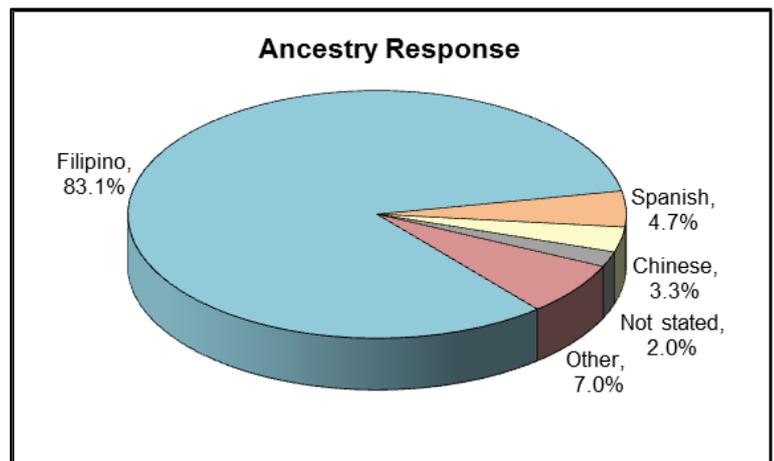


Ancestry

In the 2011 Census, the top ancestry responses* that Philippines-born people reported were Filipino (155 909), Spanish (8768) and Chinese (6160).

In the 2011 Census, Australians reported around 300 different ancestries. Of the total ancestry responses*, 224 725 responses were towards Filipino ancestry.

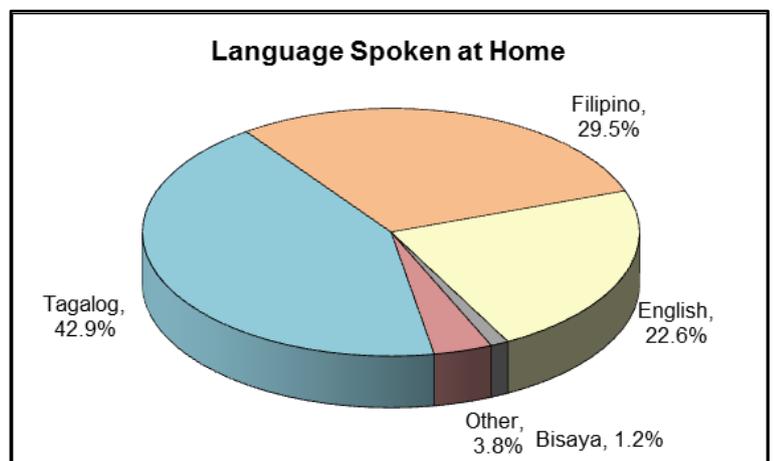
*At the 2011 Census up to two responses per person were allowed for the Ancestry question; therefore providing the total responses and not persons count.



Language

The main languages spoken at home by Philippines-born people in Australia were Tagalog (73 398), Filipino (50 496) and English (38 765).

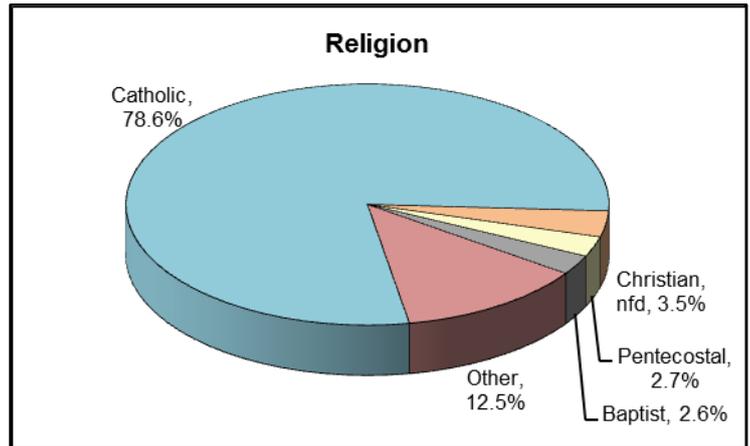
Of the 132 466 Philippines-born who spoke a language other than English at home, 95.5 per cent spoke English very well or well, and 3.1 per cent spoke English not well or not at all.



Religion

At the 2011 Census the major religious affiliations amongst Philippines-born were Catholic (134 656), Christian, nfd (5996) and Pentecostal (4621).

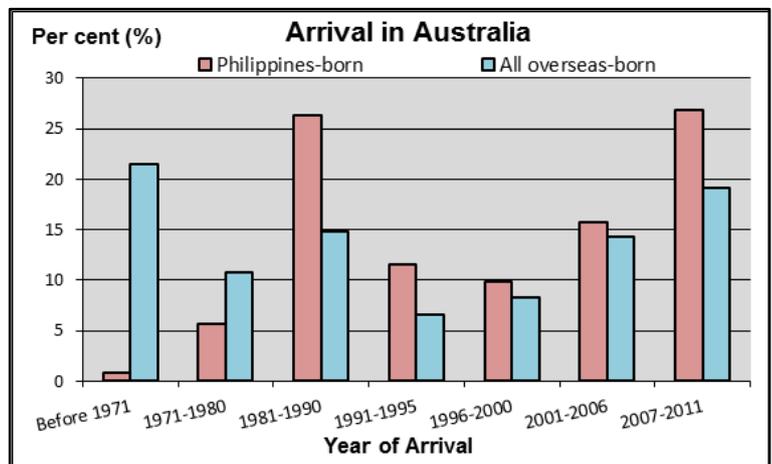
Of the Philippines-born, 2 per cent stated 'No Religion' which was lower than that of the total Australian population (22.3 per cent), and 1.4 per cent did not state a religion.



Arrival

Compared to 62 per cent of the total overseas-born population, 54 per cent of the Philippines-born people in Australia arrived in Australia prior to 2001.

Among the total Philippines-born in Australia at the 2011 Census, 15.7 per cent arrived between 2001 and 2006 and 26.8 per cent arrived between 2007 and 2011.



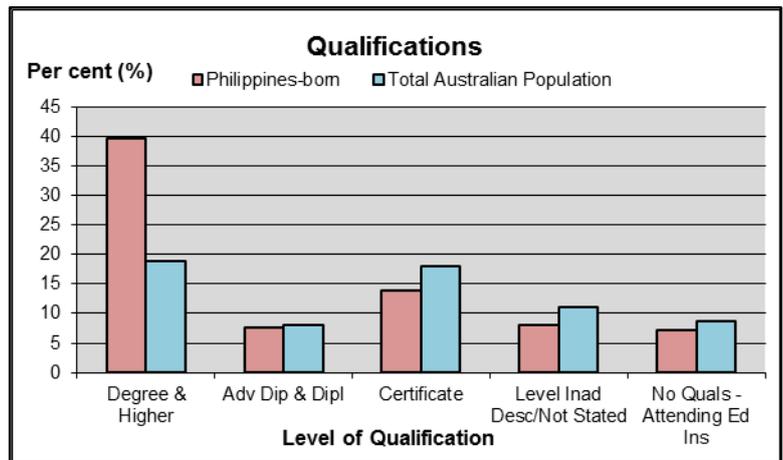
Median Income

At the time of the 2011 Census, the median individual weekly income for the Philippines-born in Australia aged 15 years and over was \$673, 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, 69 per cent of the Philippines-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 Philippines-born aged 15 years and over, 7.1 per cent were still attending an educational institution. The corresponding rate for the total Australian population was 8.6 per cent.

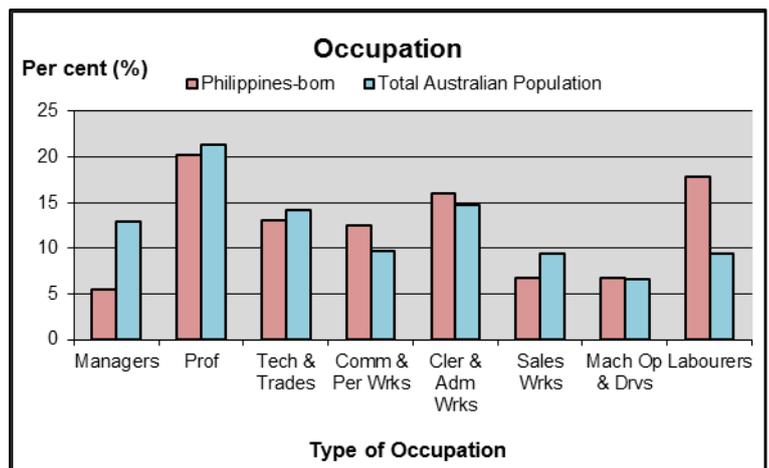


Level Inad Desc/Not Stated = Education level inadequately described or not stated
No Quals - Attending Ed Ins = No qualifications and still attending educational institution

Employment

Among Philippines-born people aged 15 years and over, the participation rate in the labour force was 74.8 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 108 195 Philippines-born who were employed, 38.8 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>