



Community Information Summary

Slovenia-born

Historical Background

One of the first known Slovenians to travel to Australia was Matija Kliner, who worked on board the frigate SMS *Novara* of the Austro-Hungarian Navy during its 1857-59 circumnavigation of the world. The vessel docked at Sydney Harbour in November 1858.

Despite the Australian gold rushes at the time, most Slovenes preferred to seek new lives in Western Europe or the United States of America.

Slovenes began making their way to Australia in the 1920s when the United States of America imposed an immigration quota.

Mass migration to Australia commenced after 1948 with political refugees escaping the post-war regime in Yugoslavia, and continued during the 1950s and 1960s. Many came from the Littoral region, most of which had been part of Italy from 1920 until after World War II.

There has been no significant migration by Slovenes over the past 30 years. Independence from the former Yugoslavia in 1991 and accession to the European Union in 2004 have presented Slovenes with opportunities closer to home.

Today

Geographic Distribution

The latest Census in 2011 recorded 6099 Slovenia-born people in Australia, a fall of 1.9 per cent from the 2006 Census. The 2011 distribution by state and territory showed Victoria had the largest number with 2436 followed by New South Wales (1988), Queensland (688) and South Australia (429).

Refer to Figure 1.

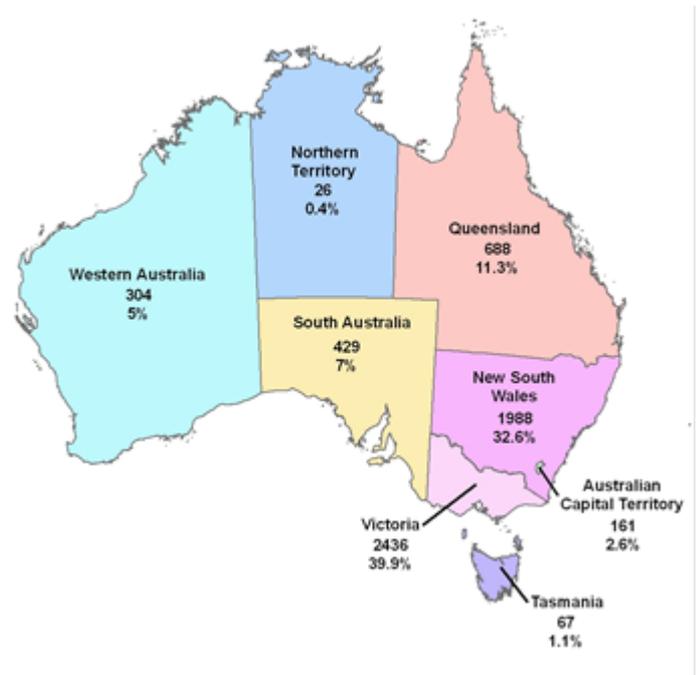


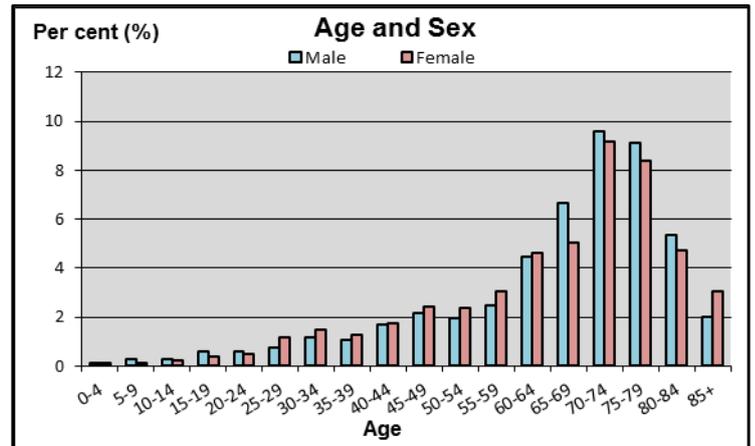
Figure 1

Age and Sex

The median age of the Slovenia-born in 2011 was 70 years compared with 45 years for all overseas-born and 37 years for the total Australian population.

The age distribution showed 1.1 per cent were aged 0-14 years, 2 per cent were 15-24 years, 10.3 per cent were 25-44 years, 23.4 per cent were 45-64 years and 63.1 per cent were 65 years and over.

Of the Slovenia-born in Australia, there were 3070 males (50.3 per cent) and 3029 females (49.7 per cent). The sex ratio was 101.4 males per 100 females.

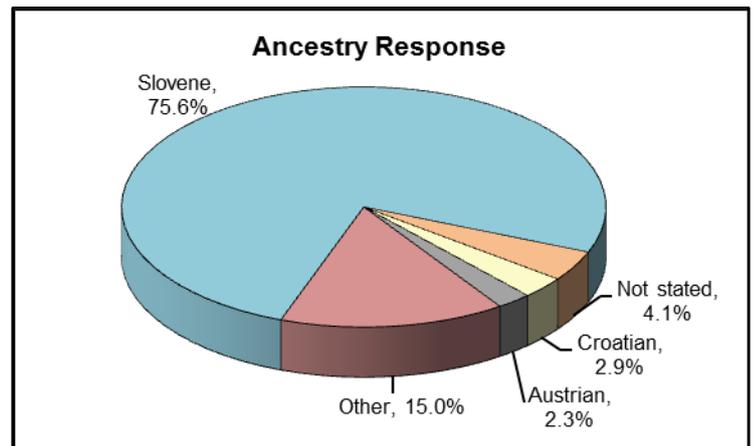


Ancestry

In the 2011 Census, the top ancestry responses* that Slovenia-born people reported were Slovene (4955), Croatian (193) and Austrian (152).

In the 2011 Census, Australians reported around 300 different ancestries. Of the total ancestry responses*, 17 150 responses were towards Slovene ancestry.

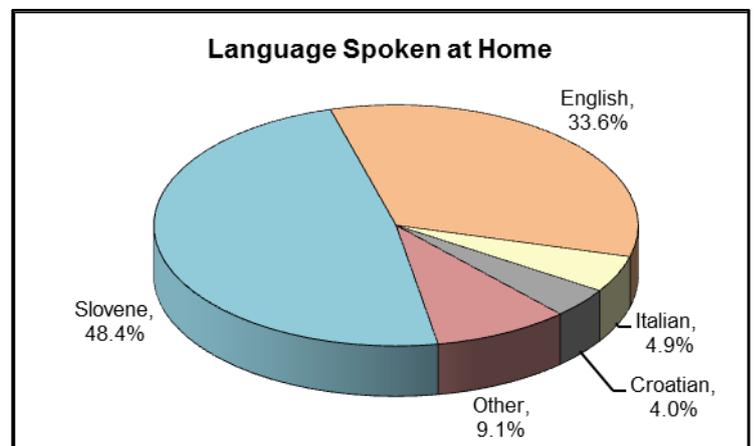
*At the 2011 Census up to two responses per person were allowed for the Ancestry question; therefore providing the total responses and not persons count.



Language

The main languages spoken at home by Slovenia-born people in Australia were Slovene (2952), English (2048) and Italian (300).

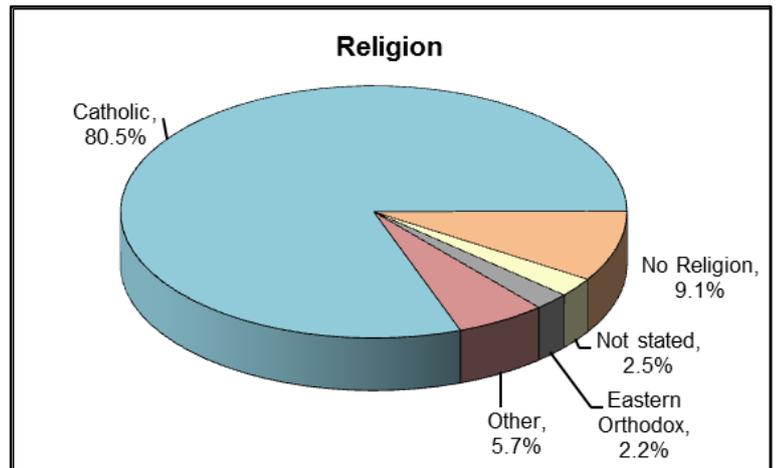
Of the 4055 Slovenia-born who spoke a language other than English at home, 90.7 per cent spoke English very well or well, and 7.7 per cent spoke English not well or not at all.



Religion

At the 2011 Census the major religious affiliations amongst Slovenia-born were Catholic (4909) and Eastern Orthodox (136).

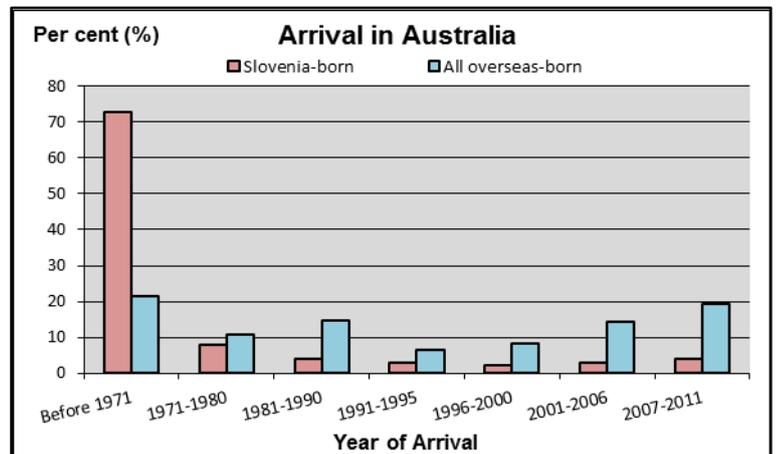
Of the Slovenia-born, 9.1 per cent stated 'No Religion' which was lower than that of the total Australian population (22.3 per cent), and 2.5 per cent did not state a religion.



Arrival

Compared to 62 per cent of the total overseas-born population, 89.6 per cent of the Slovenia-born people in Australia arrived in Australia prior to 2001.

Among the total Slovenia-born in Australia at the 2011 Census, 3 per cent arrived between 2001 and 2006 and 3.9 per cent arrived between 2007 and 2011.



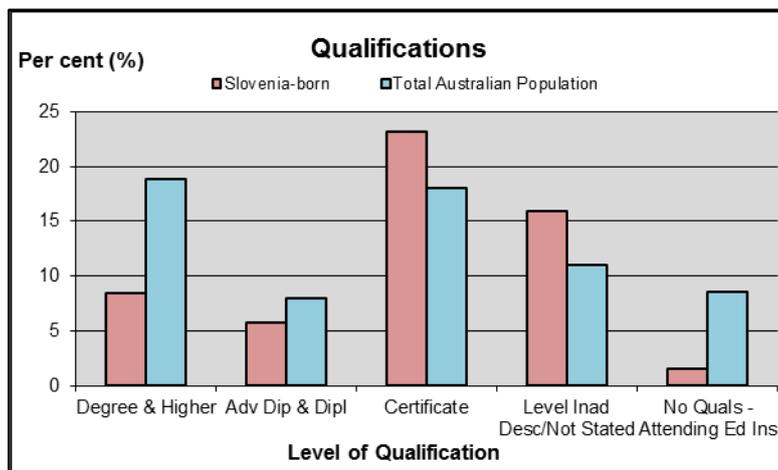
Median Income

At the time of the 2011 Census, the median individual weekly income for the Slovenia-born in Australia aged 15 years and over was \$352, 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, 53.3 per cent of the Slovenia-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 Slovenia-born aged 15 years and over, 1.5 per cent were still attending an educational institution. The corresponding rate for the total Australian population was 8.6 per cent.

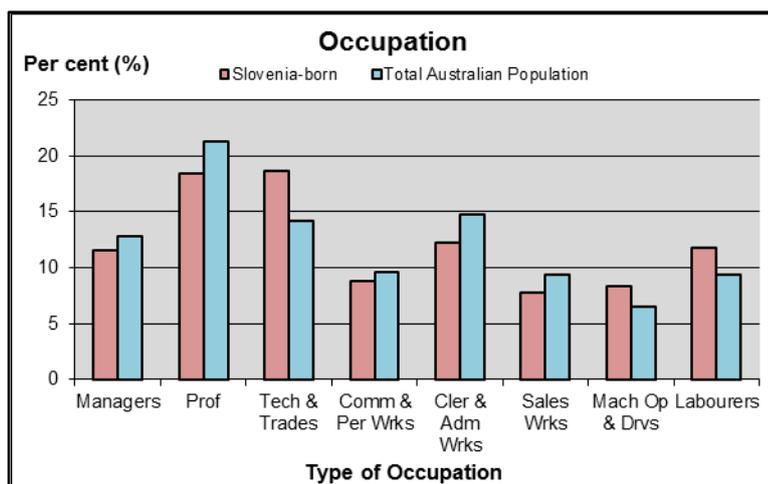


Level Inad Desc/Not Stated = Education level inadequately described or not stated
No Quals - Attending Ed Ins = No qualifications and still attending educational institution

Employment

Among Slovenia-born people aged 15 years and over, the participation rate in the labour force was 30.8 per cent and the unemployment rate was 5.1 per cent. The corresponding rates in the total Australian population were 65 per cent and 5.6 per cent respectively.

Of the 1661 Slovenia-born who were employed, 48.5 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>