



Community Information Summary

Turkey-born

Historical Background

At the beginning of the nineteenth century, there were about 20 Ottoman Empire-born people in Australia. The number increased to 300 by the 1911 Census and remained low after the World War II. By 1966, the number had reached 2500.

In 1967, Australia and Turkey signed a bilateral agreement on assisted migration. This was an important step towards the easing of immigration restrictions. The Turkish represented the first 'Asian' migrants to settle in Australia on a large scale since 1901. They were also the first large Muslim population to settle in Australia.

In the initial years of the agreement, the majority of Turkish immigrants were unskilled and found employment as labourers and process workers in the manufacturing sector. There was an increase in Turkey-born nationals in Australia to 11 589 in the 1971 Census.

Immigration from Turkey to Australia declined in the first half of the 1980s but then resumed in the second half due to high inflation and unemployment in Turkey. Since then, migration from Turkey has declined, with most arriving under the Family Stream of the migration program with smaller numbers as general skilled migrants.

Today

Geographic Distribution

The latest Census in 2011 recorded 32 845 Turkey-born people in Australia, an increase of 7.7 per cent from the 2006 Census. The 2011 distribution by state and territory showed Victoria had the largest number with 16 487 followed by New South Wales (12 977), Queensland (1384) and Western Australia (1046).

Refer to Figure 1.

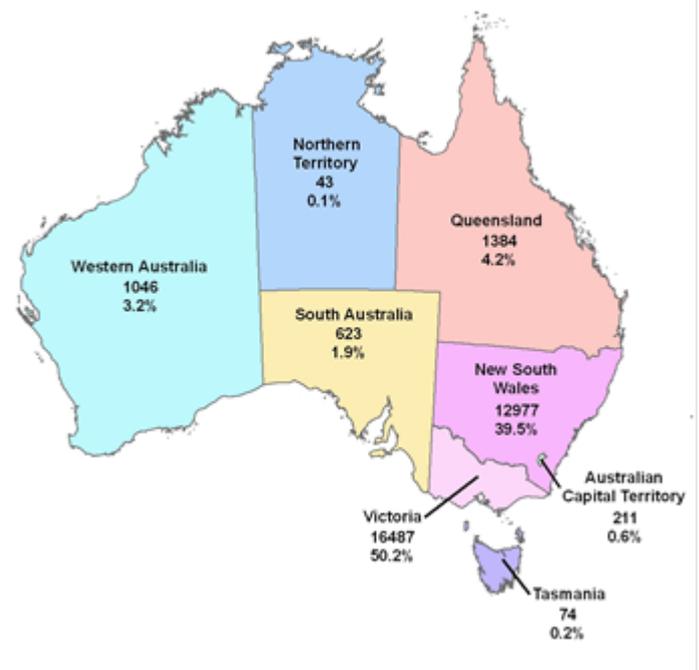


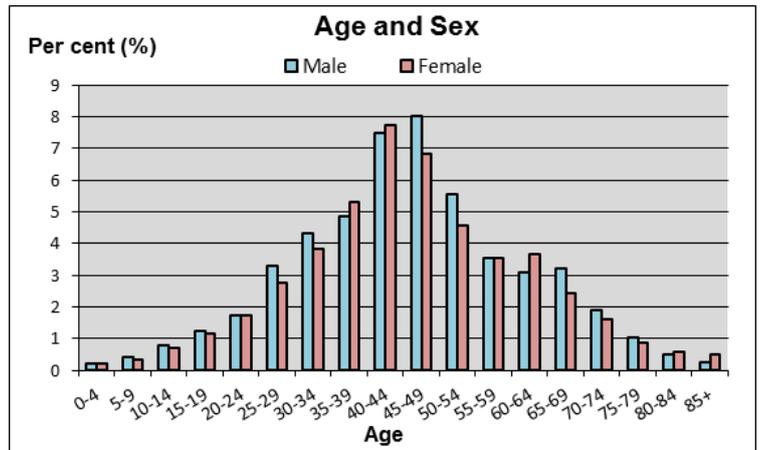
Figure 1

Age and Sex

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

The age distribution showed 2.7 per cent were aged 0-14 years, 5.9 per cent were 15-24 years, 39.7 per cent were 25-44 years, 38.8 per cent were 45-64 years and 12.9 per cent were 65 years and over.

Of the Turkey-born in Australia, there were 16 923 males (51.5 per cent) and 15 922 females (48.5 per cent). The sex ratio was 106.3 males per 100 females.

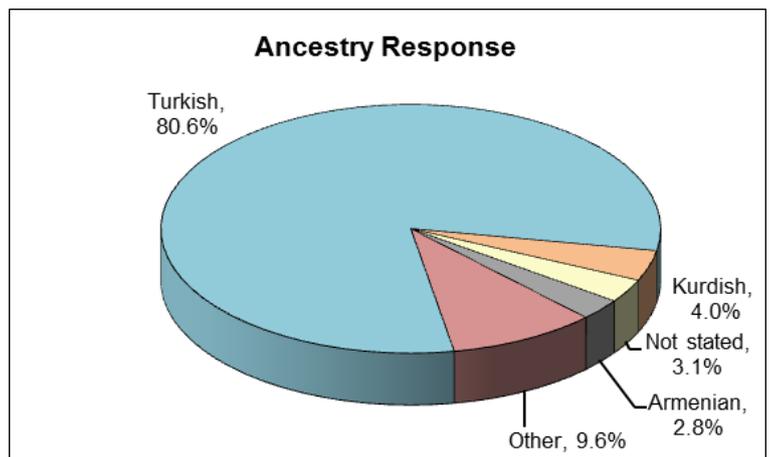


Ancestry

In the 2011 Census, the top ancestry responses* that Turkey-born people reported were Turkish (27 650), Kurdish (1357) and Armenian (954).

In the 2011 Census, Australians reported around 300 different ancestries. Of the total ancestry responses*, 66 919 responses were towards Turkish ancestry.

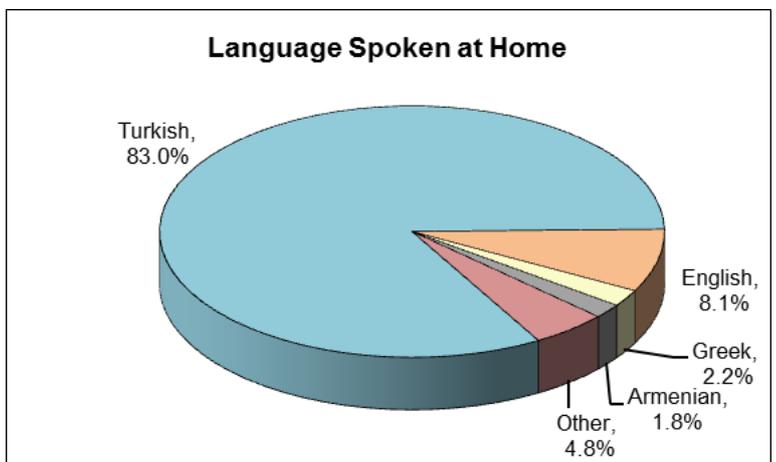
*At the 2011 Census up to two responses per person were allowed for the Ancestry question; therefore providing the total responses and not persons count.



Language

The main languages spoken at home by Turkey-born people in Australia were Turkish (27 274), English (2660) and Greek (714).

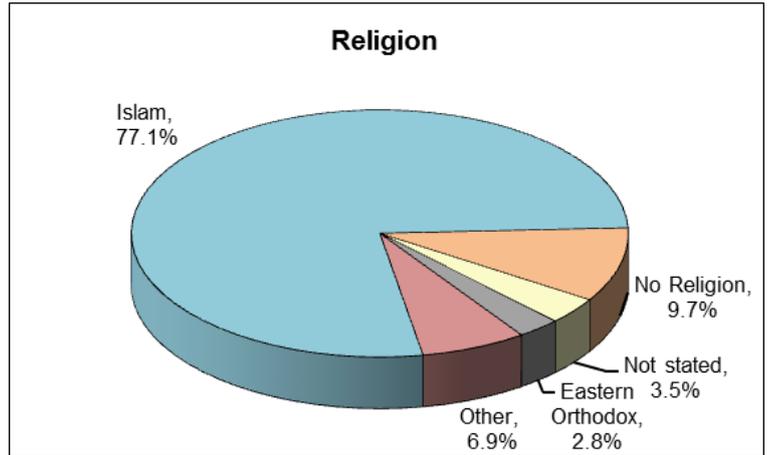
Of the 30 186 Turkey-born who spoke a language other than English at home, 68 per cent spoke English very well or well, and 30.7 per cent spoke English not well or not at all.



Religion

At the 2011 Census the major religious affiliation amongst Turkey-born was Islam (25 311).

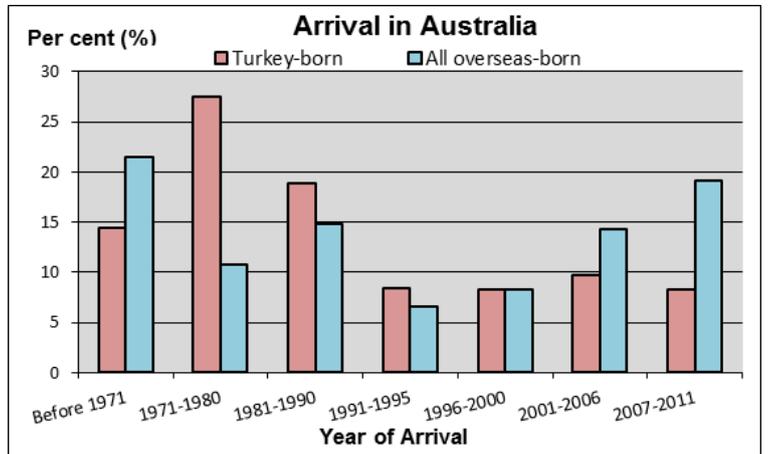
Of the Turkey-born, 9.7 per cent stated 'No Religion' which was lower than that of the total Australian population (22.3 per cent), and 3.5 per cent did not state a religion.



Arrival

Compared to 62 per cent of the total overseas-born population, 77.5 per cent of the Turkey-born people in Australia arrived in Australia prior to 2001.

Among the total Turkey-born in Australia at the 2011 Census, 9.7 per cent arrived between 2001 and 2006 and 8.3 per cent arrived during 2007 and 2011.



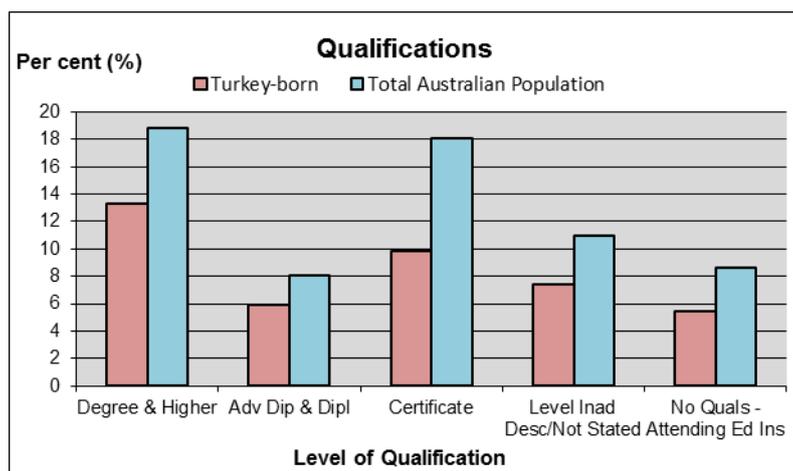
Median Income

At the time of the 2011 Census, the median individual weekly income for the Turkey-born in Australia aged 15 years and over was \$360, 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, 36.4 per cent of the Turkey-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 Turkey-born aged 15 years and over, 5.4 per cent were still attending an educational institution. The corresponding rate for the total Australian population was 8.6 per cent.

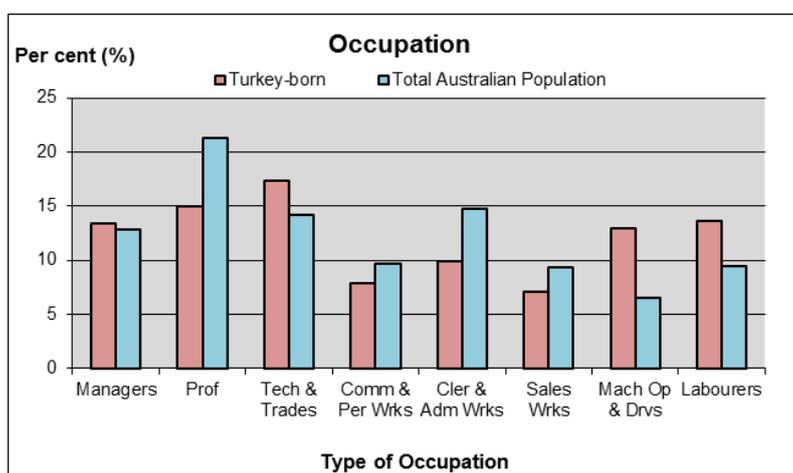


Level Inad Desc/Not Stated = Education level inadequately described or not stated
No Quals - Attending Ed Ins = No qualifications and still attending educational institution

Employment

Among Turkey-born people aged 15 years and over, the participation rate in the labour force was 49.2 per cent and the unemployment rate was 9.3 per cent. The corresponding rates in the total Australian population were 65 per cent and 5.6 per cent respectively.

Of the 13 947 Turkey-born who were employed, 45.7 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>