



# Western Australian Community Profiles 2006 Census

## China-born

### Population

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**There is a long history of migration from China to Western Australia (WA). The China-born community in WA is well established. In 2006, there were 8001 China-born Western Australians, an increase of 52.6% since 2001 and 75.7% since 1996. In 2006, China-born people represented approximately 0.4% of the total WA population.\***

China-born Western Australians were younger compared with the total WA population. More than one-third (37.9%) of China-born people were aged 25–44 and more than one-quarter (26.3%) were aged 15–24, larger compared with the total WA population (28.5% and 14.2%, respectively). The China-born cohort aged 15–24 had grown since 2001 (16.6%). In contrast, the cohort aged 0–14 fell slightly (from 6.7% to 4.5%) and was significantly smaller compared with the total WA population in this age cohort (20%). The cohort of those aged 65 and over (11.4%) was less than in 2001 (16.8%), but comparable to the total WA population (12%).

Women outnumbered men in all age-cohorts except those aged 15–24. The sex ratio (number of males per 100 females) was estimated at 84, lower than the total WA population (98.5).

### Family pattern

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More than one-quarter (26.5%) of China-born Western Australians lived in couple families with children, nearly half the figure for 2001 (52.3%), and lower than for the total WA population (38.5%). The percentage of people living in couple families without children increased during this period (17.1% to 20.5%) and was comparable to the total WA population (19.4%). The proportion of one-parent families remained consistent between 2001 and 2006 (8.6% and 8.1%), and slightly lower than for the total WA population (10%).

### Geographical distribution

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The settlement pattern of China-born Western Australians remained consistent between 2001 and 2006, with 96% living in the Perth Statistical Division (SD). Local Government Areas (LGAs) recording relatively high concentrations of China-born people were Canning (16%), Stirling (15%) and Melville (10.2%). Outside the Perth SD, there were small proportions of China-born people in the South West SD (1.3%) and the Lower Great Southern SD (1.1%).

### Religious affiliation

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In 2006, more than half (55%) of China-born Western Australians identified having no religion, more than in 2001 (46.9%). A significant proportion identified



Buddhism (19.5%) or Christianity (15.4%) as their religion. Identification with Christianity was much lower compared with the total WA population (58.7%), but much higher for no religion (22.6%) and Buddhism (1.7%).

## Languages

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The majority of China-born Western Australians (94.5%) spoke a language other than English at home. The most common languages spoken were Cantonese and Mandarin. Almost two-thirds (60.6%) of China-born people reported speaking English well or very well, more than in 2001 (55.7%). One third (33%) reported speaking English not well or not at all, slightly less than in 2001 (36.8%).

## Education

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Between 2001 and 2006, the proportion of China-born Western Australians qualified at degree level increased from 22.8% to 29.6%, and was significantly higher than for the total WA adult population (14.3%). The proportion qualified at advanced diploma, diploma or certificate level also increased (from 13.7% to 17.5%), but this was lower than for the total WA population (24.7%). The percentage of China-born adults who had completed Year 12 was significantly higher than for the total WA population (70% compared with 41.8%), as was the percentage that did not attend school (4.5% compared with 0.6%).

## Employment

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In 2006, almost half (49.4%) of China-born Western Australians were employed, more than in 2001 (40%), but less than for the total WA population (59.1%). The proportion of China-born people unemployed and not in the labour force fell for the same period (from 5.1% to 4.5%, and 53.8% to 44.5%, respectively), but remained higher than for the total WA population (2.3% and 30.3%, respectively).

China-born men were more likely than China-born women to be in full-time employment (33.4% compared with 21%) and women were less likely than men to be in the labour force (49% compared with 39%). These gender-based differences were also present in the total WA population in which men were twice as likely as women to be in full-time employment (50.2% compared with 24.9%), and women were less likely than men to be in the labour force (37.4% compared with 23.2%).

China-born Western Australians were employed mainly as professionals and managers (31.5%) and labourers (19.2%). Men were mainly employed as technicians and trade workers (26.5%). Women were more likely than men to work as community and personal workers (15.6% compared with 5.7%), clerical and administrative workers (12.3% compared with 3.2%) and sales workers (10.8% compared with 4.9%).

## Income

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Between 2001 and 2006, there was an increase in the percentage of China-born Western Australians earning \$250 and \$999 per week (29.6% to 34.6%), and \$1000 or more per week (4.9% to 9.2%). This was lower than for the total WA population (43.2% and 20%, respectively). The proportion earning no income also increased (from 17.2% to 23.3%), significantly higher than for the total WA population (6.4%). The proportion earning less than \$250 fell from 43.1% to 27.8%, which was also higher than for the total WA population (19.2%). China-born women were more likely than China-born men to be earning less than \$250 per week (31.1% compared with 23.7%) while men were almost twice more likely than women to be earning more than \$1000 per week (12.5% compared with 6.4%).

## Summary table

Variables	China-born 2006			China-born 2001	Total Western Australian population 2006		
	Male %	Female %	Total %	Total %	Male %	Female %	Total %
<b>AGE GROUP /GENDER</b>							
0–14	4.6	4.4	4.5	6.7	20.6	19.5	20.0
15–24	29.5	23.5	26.3	16.6	14.6	13.8	14.2
25–44	35.2	40.2	37.9	38.6	28.4	28.5	28.5
45–64	19.7	20.2	20.0	21.5	25.4	25.1	25.2
65+	11.0	11.7	11.4	16.8	11.0	13.1	12.0
All (#)	3647.0	4354.0	8001.0	5241	990,642	995,607	1,986,249
Sex-ratio		84		88.4			99.5
<b>FAMILY TYPE</b>							
Couple family without children	19.9	21.0	20.5	17.1	19.2	19.6	19.4
Couple family with children	35.2	37.6	36.5	52.6	38.7	38.3	38.5
One-parent family	4.9	10.7	8.1	8.6	7.9	12.1	10.0
<b>LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY</b>							
Speaks English only	3.9	6.8	5.5	6.2	80.6	81.3	80.9
Speaks other language and English; very well or well	63.2	58.5	60.6	55.7	9.6	9.9	9.8
Speaks other language and English; not well or not at all	31.8	34.1	33.0	36.8	1.5	2.0	1.7
<b>EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT (15 YEARS AND OVER)</b>							
Degree level	30.9	28.5	29.6	22.8	13.4	15.1	14.3
Advanced diploma/Diploma/ Certificate	19.9	15.5	17.5	13.7	30.3	19.2	24.7
Completed Year 12 Schooling	72.0	68.4	70.0	57.0	40.8	42.9	41.8
Did not attend school	3.1	5.7	4.5	7.8	0.5	0.7	0.6
<b>LABOUR FORCE (15 YEARS AND OVER)</b>							
Employed	55.3	44.5	49.4	40.4	65.5	52.7	59.1
Unemployed	4.1	4.8	4.5	5.1	2.4	2.2	2.3
Not in LF	39.1	49.0	44.5	53.8	23.2	37.4	30.3
<b>WEEKLY INCOME (15 YEARS AND OVER)</b>							
None	21.7	24.7	23.3	17.2	4.6	8.1	6.4
<\$250	23.7	31.1	27.8	43.1	13.8	24.4	19.2
<\$1000	36.7	32.7	34.6	29.6	39.7	46.7	43.2
\$1000 and more	12.5	6.4	9.2	4.9	29.9	10.4	20.0

Note: Totals do not always add up to 100% because of the use of selected indicators.

\* The 2006 Census recorded a total WA population of 1,959,095 people.

\*\* For 2001, the cut-off point was \$299.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics 2001 and 2006 Census of Population and Housing.

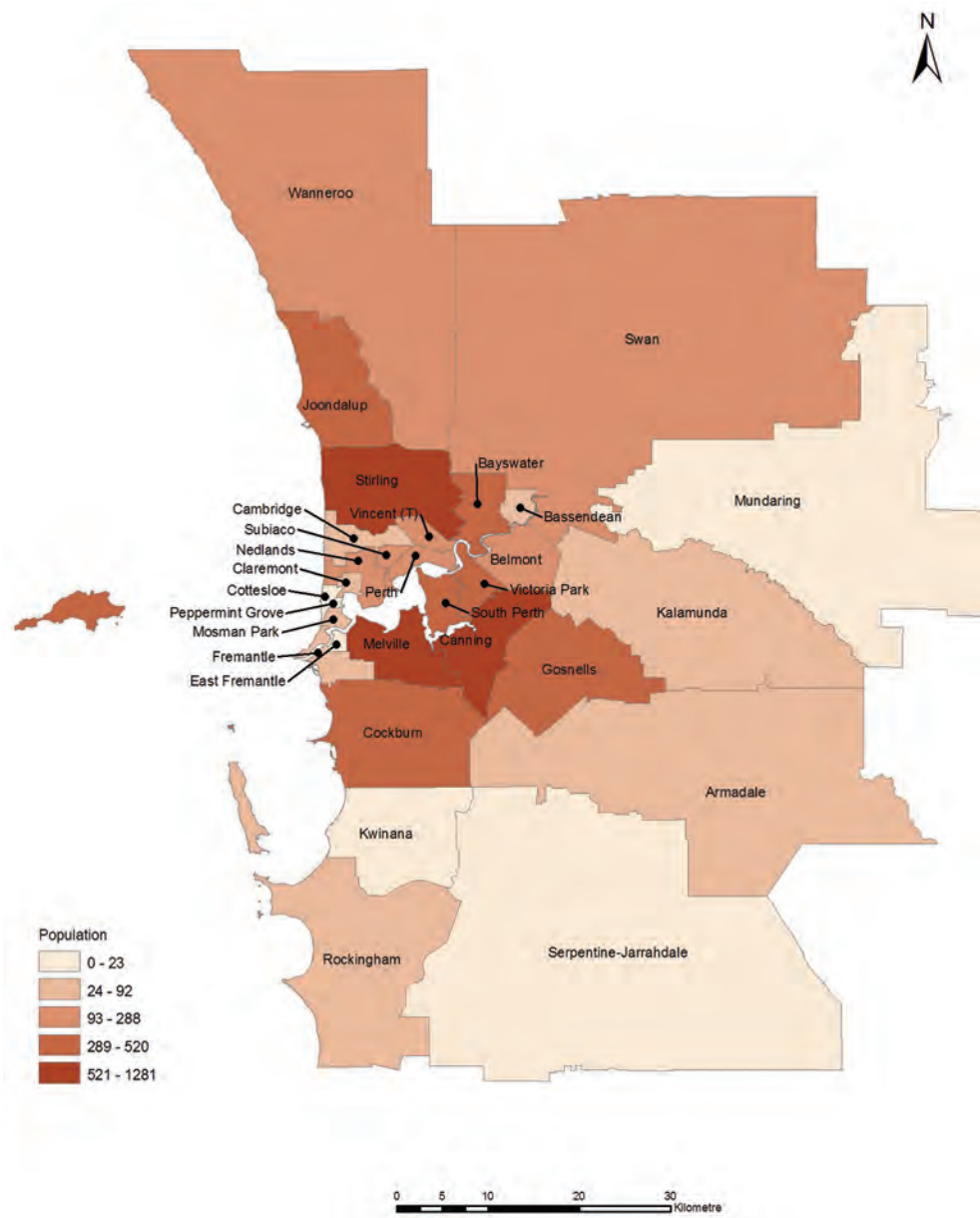


Figure 1: Distribution of China-born people by settlement pattern in the LGAs of the Perth Metropolitan Area (Data source: ABS 2006 Census of Population and Housing).