



Western Australian Community Profiles 2011 Census China-born

Introduction

This profile provides a range of information on Western Australians who were born in China. Using data from the 2011 Census of Population and Housing, it details:

- key social and economic characteristics of the community including population size, age and gender profile, education, income and workforce participation
- migration history and cultural backgrounds including ancestry, language and religious affiliation
- family and wellbeing including marital status, family composition, living arrangements and disability.

The purpose of this profile is to assist all Western Australians to understand the State's cultural diversity and the way it has changed over time. The information can be used for a variety of purposes including policy, program and service development, research and for general interest.

China-born community in Western Australia

Migration from China to Western Australia (WA) began in the mid-19th century and remained small-scale until the 1970s. Between 1971 and 1980, 275 people migrated from China. Four times as many arrived between 1980 and 1990 (1420) mainly as international students. The majority of WA's China-born (11,000) arrived between 2001 and 2010, mainly as skilled and business migrants. In 2011, China was the eighth-largest source country of the overseas-born in WA.

CHINA-BORN COMMUNITY AT A GLANCE

- There were 16,692 China-born in WA, more than double the number in 2006 (8004).
- There were 75,935 Western Australians with Chinese ancestry.
- More than two-thirds (67%) arrived in WA between 2001 and 2010.
- There were more women (8807) than men (7885) with a sex ratio of 90 men for every 100 women.
- Almost half (44%) of the China-born were young adults aged between 25 and 44 years, and the smallest groups were children aged between 0 and 14 years (6%) and older people aged over 65 years (6%).
- The median age of the China-born was 31 years.

- ▣ Almost two-thirds (63%) of the China-born spoke English well and spoke a language other than English (LOTE) at home.
- ▣ The main languages spoken by the China-born were Mandarin (68%) and Cantonese (20%).
- ▣ Most (94%) of the China-born lived in the Greater Perth Metropolitan Area.
- ▣ Three-quarters (76%) of the China-born aged 15 years and over had completed Year 12 or an equivalent level of education, and half had a university (35%) and/or technical qualification (15%).
- ▣ More than half were employed (56%) and more than one-third (37%) were not in the labour force.
- ▣ The China-born were employed mainly as professionals (24%), technicians and trade workers (18%) and labourers (16%).
- ▣ Nearly one-third (30%) were middle income earners with a weekly income between \$300 and \$999; and one-quarter (25%) had no weekly income.
- ▣ More than half (55%) of the China-born owned their home.
- ▣ Three-quarters (74%) of the China-born aged 25 years and over were married and 40% lived in couple families with children.
- ▣ One-quarter (25%) of the China-born aged over 65 years required assistance with everyday living.

Migration, culture, ancestry, language and religion

In 2011, there were 16,692 China-born Western Australians, representing 0.7% of the State's total population. This group had more than doubled in number since 2006 (8004). One-third (34%) were Australian citizens.

ARRIVAL

More than two-thirds (67%) of the China-born arrived in WA between 2001 and 2010, migrating largely as skilled and business migrants and as international students. This compares with the State's total overseas-born population, of which 28% arrived during the same period.

AGE AND GENDER

The China-born population is composed of a larger proportion of young adults and a smaller proportion of children than the total WA population. In 2011, almost half (44%) were aged between 25 and 44 years; a larger proportion than in 2001 (39%) and compared with the total WA population (29%).

By contrast, only 6% of the China-born were aged between 0 and 14 years. This was comparable to 2001 (7%) but three-times smaller than the WA proportion (20%).

Between 2001 and 2011 there was a decrease in the proportion of China-born older people aged 65 years and over (from 17% to 6%), which was smaller compared with the proportion of all Western Australians (12%). By contrast, there was an increase in the proportion of people aged between 15 and 24 years (from 17% to 25%), which was larger compared with the total WA population (14%).

The median age of the China-born was 31 years, compared with 36 years for the total WA population.



Age and gender profile	China-born					WA population 2011		
	2011			2006	2001			
Age group	Male %	Female %	Total %	Total %	Total %	Male %	Female %	Total %
0–14 years	6.4	5.4	5.9	4.5	6.7	20.1	19.2	19.7
15–24 years	28.2	21.7	24.7	26.3	16.5	14.1	13.3	13.7
25–44 years	41.5	45.9	43.8	37.8	38.6	29.4	28.9	29.1
45–64 years	18.0	20.2	19.2	20.1	21.5	25.1	25.3	25.2
65+ years	5.9	6.8	6.4	11.3	16.7	11.3	13.2	12.3
All (number)	7885	8807	16,692	8004	5241	1,126,177	1,112,994	2,239,171
Sex ratio				89.5	83.8	88.4		

In 2011, there were more China-born women than men. The sex ratio (number of men per 100 women) was 90. This was higher than in 2006 (84) but lower than the total WA population (101).

ANCESTRY

People born in China, who have one or both parents born there, or who were born elsewhere but have Chinese ancestors, may identify that they have Chinese ancestry.

In 2011, 16,692 (99%) of the China-born identified that they had Chinese ancestry. Small proportions of China-born Western Australians also reported that they had English (2%), Australian (0.6%), Russian (0.2%) and German (0.1%) ancestry. Most (98%) had one or both parents born overseas.

Smaller numbers of the WA population (75,935 or 3%) and of the Australia-born (17,523 or 1%) identified that they had Chinese ancestry.

Ancestry	China-born		WA population 2011	Australia-born 2011
	2011	2006		
Self-identified ancestry	Total %	Total %	Total %	Total %
Chinese	98.5	97.4	3.4	0.6
English	1.7	2.2	37.9	41.3
Australian	0.6	0.6	32.0	49.6
Russian	0.2	0.6	0.2	0.2
German	0.1	0.3	2.8	3.2
One or both parents born overseas	97.5	98.3	56.2	35.2
Both parents born in Australia	0.2	0	43.8	64.8
One parent born in Australia	0.4	0.6	51.3	75.3

Language	China-born					WA population 2011		
	2011			2006	2001	Male %	Female %	Total %
English proficiency	Male %	Female %	Total %	Total %	Total %	Male %	Female %	Total %
English only	2.5	5.4	3.9	5.5	6.2	78.8	79.8	79.3
Other language and English; very well or well	64.6	62.0	63.0	61.1	55.7	12.4	12.7	12.5
Other language and English; not well or not at all	31.8	32.3	32.0	33.4	36.8	1.8	2.4	2.1
Main language spoken at home other than English (top two responses)*								
Mandarin	68.3	64.1	68.1	54.9	43.2	1.2	1.3	1.3
Cantonese	17.4	20.9	19.9	31.5	40.3	0.7	0.9	0.8

* The first three columns include the top two responses for the China-born. Data for the WA population are not the top responses and are presented for comparative purposes.

LANGUAGES

In 2011, most (95%) China-born Western Australians reported speaking a language other than English (LOTE) at home, mainly Mandarin (68%) and Cantonese (20%). The proportion of Cantonese speakers halved between 2001 and 2011 (from 40%), while the proportion of Mandarin speakers increased (from 43%).

In 2011, nearly two-thirds (63%) of the China-born reported speaking a LOTE and speaking English well, a larger proportion than in 2001 (58%). A small proportion (4%) spoke English only at home, similar to 2001 (6%).

Almost one-third (32%) of the China-born reported speaking a LOTE and English not well or not at all. This was a smaller proportion than in 2001 (37%).

RELIGION

In 2011, almost two-thirds (65%) of the China-born identified as having no religion. This was a larger proportion than in 2006 (45%). Smaller proportions identified with Buddhism (16%) and Christianity (13%). Both had decreased since 2001 (from 23% and 16%, respectively). This reflects the general trend for the total WA population in which identification with Christianity has decreased and not identifying with any religion has increased.



Geographic distribution

Between 2001 and 2011, the settlement pattern for China-born Western Australians was stable. In 2011, most (94%) lived in the Greater Perth Metropolitan Area and 6% lived in non-metropolitan areas. Compared with the China-born, a smaller proportion of the Western Australian population lived in the Greater Perth Metropolitan Area (77%) and a larger proportion lived in non-metropolitan areas (22%).

Within the Greater Perth Metropolitan Area, the China-born lived mainly in the Local Government Areas of Canning (18%), Stirling (12%) and Gosnells (10%).

Education

In 2011, three-quarters (76%) of the China-born aged 15 years and over had completed Year 12 or an equivalent level of education. This was a larger proportion than in 2001 (57%) and 2006 (70%), and compared with the total WA population (48%).

Between 2001 and 2011, there was an increase in the proportion of the China-born with qualifications at degree/tertiary level (from 23% to 35%), while those with advanced diploma, diploma and certificate level remained relatively stable (15%). The proportion of the China-born with post-school qualifications was larger compared with the total WA population (50% and 45%, respectively).

A small proportion (2%) of China-born Western Australians reported that they had not attended school, a smaller proportion than in 2001 (8%) but comparable to the proportion of the total WA population (0.6%).

Educational attainment	China-born					WA population 2011		
	2011			2006	2001	Male %	Female %	Total %
Population (15+ years)	Male %	Female %	Total %	Total %	Total %	Male %	Female %	Total %
Degree/tertiary level	34.3	34.7	34.5	28.5	22.7	15.9	19.2	17.5
Advanced diploma/ diploma/ certificate	16.9	14.8	15.3	18.4	14.7	32.8	22.4	27.6
Completed Year 12/equivalent	77.3	75.1	76.2	70.0	57.0	46.2	49.4	47.8
Did not attend school	1.5	3.0	2.3	4.5	7.8	0.5	0.7	0.6

Labour force

PARTICIPATION

The labour force participation rate is the proportion of the total population, aged 15 years and over, who are employed or unemployed and able to work. In 2011, almost two-thirds (62%) of China-born Western Australians were in the labour force, a larger proportion than in 2001 (46%), but comparable to the total WA population (64%).

Between 2001 and 2011, there was a decrease in the proportion of the China-born not in the labour force (from 54% to 37%), while the rate of unemployment remained relatively stable (5%). These figures were higher compared with those for the total WA population (29% and 3%, respectively). The proportion of the China-born who were employed (56%) was smaller compared with that of the total WA population (61%).

Labour force	China-born					WA population 2011		
	2011			2006	2001	Male %	Female %	Total %
Population (15+ years)	Male %	Female %	Total %	Total %	Total %	Male %	Female %	Total %
Employed	60.9	52.1	56.3	49.4	40.4	66.7	55.3	61.0
Unemployed	5.7	5.4	5.5	4.5	5.1	3.2	2.9	3.0
Not in the labour force	15.2	41.3	37.1	44.5	53.8	22.7	36.1	29.4

A larger proportion of China-born men (61%) than women (52%) were employed. The proportion of women who were not in the labour force was more than double that of men (41% and 15%, respectively). These gender-based trends reflect those for the total WA population, of which 67% of men and 55% of women were employed, and more than one-third of women (36%) and less than a quarter of men (23%) were not in the labour force.

OCCUPATION

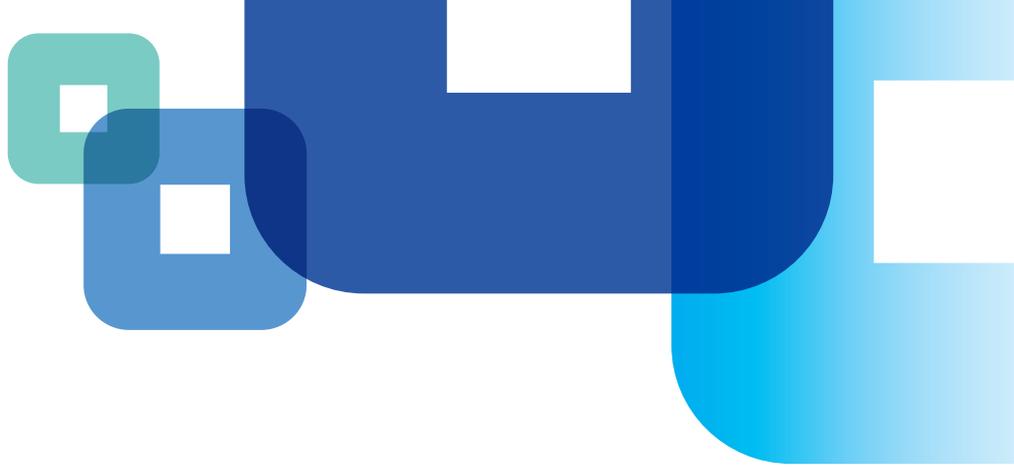
The China-born were mainly employed as professionals (24%), technicians and trade workers (18%) and labourers (16%).¹ The proportions of the China-born employed as professionals and labourers were larger compared with the WA population (20% and 10%, respectively), while the proportion of technicians and trade workers was comparable (17%). China-born men were mainly employed as technicians and trade workers (30%), professionals (23%) and labourers (13%). China-born women were mainly employed as professionals (25%), labourers (19%), community and personal service workers (15%), and clerical and administrative workers (13%).

BUSINESS OWNERSHIP

In 2011, 14% of the China-born were small or medium business owners. This was a smaller proportion than in 2006 (18%), but comparable to the total WA population (15%).

More than two-thirds (68%) of businesses owned by the China-born employed between one and 19 people, almost one-third (29%) were self-managed and 3% employed 20 or more people.

¹ According to the 2011 Census Dictionary, 'labourers' include cleaners and laundry workers, construction and mining labourers, factory process workers, farm, forestry and garden workers, food preparation assistants and miscellaneous category such as handypersons, recycling and rubbish collectors and vending machine attendants.



Weekly income	China-born					WA population 2011		
	2011			2006*	2001**	Male %	Female %	Total %
Population (15+ years)	Male %	Female %	Total %	Total %	Total %	Male %	Female %	Total %
None	21.6	27.5	24.7	23.3	17.2	5.6	9.8	7.7
< \$300	14.2	18.3	16.3	16.3	43.1	11.7	19.8	15.7
\$300–\$999	27.5	31.7	29.6	32.1	29.6	29.3	41.9	35.6
\$1000 or more	27.1	14.6	20.8	8.7	4.9	43.0	20.2	31.6

Note: * Unlike 2011 and 2001, the threshold for the 2006 Census was less than \$250. The next income bracket was \$250–\$999.
 ** For the 2001 Census no income also included negative income.

INCOME

In 2011, almost one-third (30%) of the China-born were middle income earners with a weekly income of between \$300 and \$999. This was unchanged since 2006 (32%), but smaller compared with the proportion of the total WA population (36%). The proportion of China-born high income earners, with a weekly income of \$1000 or more per week, was four times larger than in 2001 (5% and 21%, respectively), but was smaller compared with the total WA population (32%).

The proportion of people earning less than \$300 per week had decreased since 2001 (from 43% to 16%) but was comparable to the WA population (16%).

One-quarter (25%) of the China-born were without a weekly income, a larger proportion than in 2001 (17%) and three-times larger than the proportion of the WA population (8%).

Larger proportions of China-born women were middle income earners (32%) or had no income (28%) than men (28% and 22%, respectively). A larger proportion of men (27%) than women (15%) were high income earners.

HOUSING

In 2011, more than half (55%) of the China-born owned their home compared with almost two-thirds (63%) of all Western Australians.

Among the China-born, one-fifth (21%) lived in a home they fully owned and one-third (34%) lived in a home they were purchasing, comparable to the total WA population (24% and 39%, respectively).

One-third of the China-born (34%) lived in rental accommodation which was larger than the proportion of the total WA population (26%).

Family

MARITAL STATUS

In 2011, three-quarters (74%) of the China-born aged 25 years and over were married. This was comparable to 2006 (72%), but larger than the proportion of the total WA population (58%).

Between 2006 and 2011, there were slight decreases in the proportions of the China-born who were widowed (from 6% to 3%) and divorced or separated (from 9% to 7%). These proportions were smaller compared with those of the total WA population (6% and 14%, respectively). The proportions of China-born women who were divorced or separated (9%) or widowed (5%) were larger compared with those of men (5% and 0.8%, respectively).

A larger proportion of the China-born were never married in 2011 (16%) than in 2006 (12%), but this was smaller compared with the total Western Australian population (23%).

FAMILY COMPOSITION

In 2011, more than one-third (40%) of the China-born lived in couple families with children, comparable to 2006 (37%) but a smaller proportion compared with the total WA population (45%).

Almost one-quarter (22%) lived in couple families without children, similar to 2006 (21%) and comparable to the proportion of the total WA population (20%).

Between 2006 and 2011, the proportion of the China-born living in one-parent families decreased (from 8% to 3%) and was smaller compared with the total WA population (10%). A larger proportion of China-born women lived in one-parent families (6%) than men (1%).

Registered marital status (25+ years)	China-born				WA population 2011		
	2011			2006	Male %	Female %	Total %
	Male %	Female %	Total %	Total %			
Married	76.8	71.5	73.9	72.0	59.0	57.1	58.1
Widowed	0.8	5.2	3.3	6.1	2.3	8.8	5.6
Divorced/separated	4.8	9.2	7.2	9.3	12.3	14.9	13.6
Never married	18.0	14.2	15.9	12.4	26.3	19.2	22.7
Family composition (all ages)							
Couple family with children	38.4	41.5	40.0	36.5	45.0	44.7	44.8
Couple family without children	19.4	23.3	21.5	20.5	19.4	20.3	19.8
One-parent family	1.1	5.6	3.3	8.1	7.8	12.0	9.9



LIVING ARRANGEMENTS

In 2011, almost half (49%) of the China-born were living with a spouse or partner, comparable to 2006 (50%) but larger compared with the proportion of the total WA population (34%). A larger proportion of women (53%) than men (45%) were living with a spouse.

Almost one-quarter (24%) of the China-born were living with other family or non-family members, a smaller proportion compared with all Western Australians (34%). A slightly larger proportion of China-born women were living alone than men (10% and 6%, respectively).

DISABILITY/SICKNESS

Disability refers to the level of assistance a person requires in day-to-day activities such as eating, dressing and bathing. In 2011, one-quarter (25%) of the China-born aged 65 years and over required such assistance. A larger proportion of women (30%) required assistance than men (20%). These were larger than the proportions of Western Australian women and men of the same age (18% and 13%, respectively).

One-tenth of the China-born (10%) aged 15 years and over was providing unpaid care and/or assistance to a family member, comparable to the proportion of the total WA population (9%).

More information

For more information and assistance, please contact:

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