



Western Australian Community Profiles 2011 Census

Croatia-born

Introduction

This profile provides a range of information on Western Australians who were born in Croatia. 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.

Croatia-born community in Western Australia

Croatia-born people have been migrating to Western Australia (WA) since the 19th century. However, large-scale migration from Croatia to WA began after World War II. The Croatia-born were part of a broader wave of European migrants who arrived as displaced persons or who were encouraged to settle here by the Australian government to fill unskilled industrial jobs. Migration from Croatia slowed during the 1970s and 80s. One-fifth (20%) of Croatia-born Western Australians arrived between 1991 and 2000, mainly as humanitarian entrants due to conflicts taking place in the region.

CROATIA-BORN COMMUNITY AT A GLANCE

- There were 5148 Croatia-born people in WA in 2011, a slightly smaller number than in 2006 (5164).
- There were 17,486 Western Australians with Croatian ancestry.
- More than half (59%) arrived in WA before 1981.
- Most (95%) were Australian citizens.
- There were more men (2629) than women (2519) with a sex ratio of 104 men for every 100 women.
- Almost equal proportions of the Croatia-born were adults aged between 45 and 64 years (40%) or older people aged 65 years and over (38%). The smallest group was children aged between 0 and 14 years (less than 1%).

- ▣ The median age of the Croatia-born was 60 years.
- ▣ Almost two-thirds (64%) of the Croatia-born spoke English well and spoke a language other than English (LOTE) at home.
- ▣ The main languages spoken by the Croatia-born were Croatian (58%) and Serbian (17%).
- ▣ Most (94%) of the Croatia-born lived in the Greater Perth Metropolitan Area.
- ▣ Almost half (44%) of the Croatia-born aged 15 years and over had completed Year 12 or an equivalent level of education, and more than one-third (38%) had a technical (30%) or tertiary (8%) qualification.
- ▣ Almost equal proportions were employed (46%) or were not in the labour force (49%).
- ▣ The Croatia-born were employed mainly as labourers (21%), technicians and trade workers (18%), managers (12%) and professionals (12%).
- ▣ More than one-third (41%) were middle income earners with an average weekly income of between \$300 and \$999.
- ▣ The majority (80%) of the Croatia-born owned their home.
- ▣ Two-thirds (66%) of the Croatia-born aged 25 years and over were married and almost equal proportions lived in couple families with children (36%) or couple families without children (34%).
- ▣ Almost one-quarter (24%) of the Croatia-born aged 65 years and over required assistance with everyday living.

Migration, culture, ancestry, language and religion

In 2011, there were 5148 Croatia-born Western Australians, representing less than one per cent (0.2%) of the State's total population. This number was smaller than in 2006 (5164). Most (95%) were Australian citizens.

ARRIVAL

More than half (59%) of the Croatia-born arrived in WA before 1981. This compares with the State's total overseas-born population of which nine per cent arrived during the same period. Almost one-quarter (22%) of the Croatia-born arrived in WA between 1991 and 2000.

AGE AND GENDER

The Croatia-born population is composed of larger proportions of adults and older people, and smaller proportions of children, young people and young adults, than the total WA population. In 2011, almost equal proportions of the Croatia-born were adults aged between 45 and 64 years (40%) or aged 65 years and over (38%). The proportion aged between 45 and 64 years was unchanged from 2006 (41%), while the proportion of older people had increased (from 32%). Both proportions were larger compared with the total WA population (25% and 12%, respectively).

By contrast, less than one per cent of the Croatia-born were children aged between 0 and 14 years, a smaller proportion compared with the total WA population (20%). The proportions of young people aged between 15 and 24 (5%) and young adults aged between 25 and 44 years (17%) were also smaller compared with all Western Australians (14% and 29%, respectively). The median age of the Croatia-born was 60 years, compared with 36 years for the total WA population.



Age and gender profile	Croatia-born					WA population 2011		
	2011			2006	2001	Male %	Female %	Total %
Age group	Male %	Female %	Total %	Total %	Total %	Male %	Female %	Total %
0–14 years	0.6	1.0	0.8	1.8	3.2	20.1	19.2	19.7
15–24 years	5.5	3.9	4.7	7.3	5.8	14.1	13.3	13.7
25–44 years	16.5	16.7	16.6	17.3	20.7	29.4	28.9	29.1
45–64 years	38.0	42.8	40.4	41.5	46.0	25.1	25.3	25.2
65+ years	39.4	35.6	37.5	32.1	24.2	11.3	13.2	12.3
All (number)	2629	2519	5148	5164	5190	1,126,177	1,112,994	2,239,171
Sex ratio			104.4	105.1	110.3			101.2

In 2011, there were more Croatia-born men than women. The sex ratio (number of men per 100 women) was 104. This was lower than in 2006 (105), 2001 (110) and when compared with the total WA population (101).

ANCESTRY

People born in Croatia, who had one or both parents born there, or who were born elsewhere but have Croatian ancestors, may identify that they have Croatian ancestry. In 2011, more than three-quarters (77%) of the

Croatia-born identified that they had Croatian ancestry, similar to 2006 (79%). Croatia-born Western Australians also reported that they had Serbian (19%), Italian (1%), English (1%) and Australian (1%) ancestry. Most (98%) had one or both parents born overseas.

Small numbers and proportions of the WA population (17,486 or 0.8%) and the Australia-born (12,310 or 0.9%) identified that they had Croatian ancestry.

Ancestry	Croatia-born		WA population 2011	Australia-born 2011
	2011	2006		
Self-identified ancestry	Total %	Total %	Total %	Total %
Croatian	76.9	79.4	0.8	0.9
Serbian	19.0	18.4	0.3	0.1
Italian	1.3	0.9	5.0	6.2
English	1.0	0.8	37.9	41.4
Australian	1.1	1.3	32.3	49.7
One or both parents born overseas	98.2	98.3	56.2	35.2
Both parents born in Australia	0.0	N/A	43.8	64.8
One parent born in Australia	1.0	48	51.3	75.3

Language	Croatia-born					WA population 2011		
	2011			2006	2001	Male %	Female %	Total %
English proficiency	Male %	Female %	Total %	Total %	Total %	Male %	Female %	Total %
English only	21.6	15.7	18.7	17.4	15.9	78.8	79.8	79.3
Other language and English; very well or well	63.3	64.8	64.0	63.5	65.2	12.4	12.7	12.5
Other language and English; not well or not at all	13.7	18.4	16.1	18.2	18.0	1.8	2.4	2.1
Main language spoken at home other than English (top two responses)*								
Croatian	54.4	62.1	58.2	60.5	66.2	0.3	0.3	0.3
Serbian	17.7	15.9	16.8	15.1	9.4	0.2	0.2	0.2

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

LANGUAGES

In 2011, the majority (80%) of Croatia-born Western Australians reported speaking a language other than English (LOTE) at home, mainly Croatian (58%) and Serbian (17%).

Almost two-thirds (64%) of the Croatia-born reported speaking a LOTE and speaking English very well or well, almost unchanged since 2001 (65%).

Almost one-fifth (19%) spoke English only at home, an increase from 2001 (16%). A larger proportion of men (22%) than women (16%) spoke English only at home. A similar proportion (16%) of the Croatia-born reported speaking a LOTE and English not well or not at all.

RELIGION

The religious affiliation of Croatia-born Western Australians was unchanged between 2001 and 2011. The majority (90%) of the Croatia-born identified with Christianity. Smaller proportions identified as having no religion (7%), or with Islam or Buddhism (both less than 1%). This contrasted with the general trend for the total WA population for which identification with Christianity had decreased and identification with non-Christian religions, or not identifying with any religion, had increased.



Geographic distribution

Between 2001 and 2011, the settlement pattern for Croatia-born Western Australians remained stable. In 2011, most (94%) lived in the Greater Perth Metropolitan Area and six per cent lived in non-metropolitan areas. Compared with the Croatia-born, a smaller proportion of the total 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 Croatia-born lived mainly in the Local Government Areas (LGAs) of Cockburn (27%), Stirling (16%) and Swan (10%).

Education

In 2011, almost half (44%) of the Croatia-born aged 15 years and over had completed Year 12 or an equivalent level of education. This was a larger proportion than in 2006 (38%) and 2001 (33%), but was comparable to the total WA population (48%).

Between 2001 and 2011, the proportion of the Croatia-born with qualifications at degree/tertiary level (5% and 8%, respectively), and advanced diploma, diploma and certificate level qualifications (27% and 30%, respectively) was relatively unchanged. A larger proportion of Croatia-born men (38%) than women (22%) had an advanced diploma, diploma or certificate level qualification, however, similar proportions had degree/tertiary level qualifications (8% and 9%, respectively).

The proportion of the Croatia-born with post-school qualifications (38%) was smaller compared with the total WA population (45%). A larger proportion of Croatia-born men (46%) than women (30%) had a post-school qualification.

A small proportion (3%) of Croatia-born Western Australians reported that they had not attended school, compared with less than one per cent of the total WA population (0.6%).

Educational attainment	Croatia-born					WA population 2011		
	2011			2006	2001	Male %	Female %	Total %
Population (15+ years)	Male %	Female %	Total %	Total %	Total %	Male %	Female %	Total %
Degree/tertiary level	7.7	8.8	8.3	6.5	5.1	15.9	19.2	17.5
Advanced diploma/diploma/certificate	38.0	21.5	30.0	27.6	27.0	32.8	22.4	27.6
Completed Year 12/equivalent	45.5	42.0	43.7	38.1	33.0	46.2	49.4	47.8
Did not attend school	1.9	3.2	2.5	2.4	2.8	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 half (47%) of Croatia-born Western Australians were in the labour force. This was comparable to the 2001 rate (48%), but was lower compared with the total WA population (64%).

Between 2001 and 2011, there was little change in the proportion of the Croatia-born employed (44% and 46%, respectively), but this was lower compared with the total WA population (61%). The proportion not in the labour force was also unchanged (51% and 49%, respectively), however, it was higher compared with the total WA population (29%).

The rate of unemployment decreased (from 4% to 2%) and was comparable to the total WA population (3%).

Labour force	Croatia-born					WA population 2011		
	2011			2006	2001			
Population (15+ years)	Male %	Female %	Total %	Total %	Total %	Male %	Female %	Total %
Employed	49.9	41.5	45.8	47.1	43.7	66.7	55.3	61.0
Unemployed	1.8	1.3	1.6	1.7	4.0	3.2	2.9	3.0
Not in the labour force	45.2	53.9	49.4	48.8	50.5	22.7	36.1	29.4

A larger proportion of Croatia-born men (50%) than women (42%) were employed. A larger proportion of women than men were not in the labour force (54% and 45%, respectively). These gender-based trends reflect those for the total Western Australian population of which 67 per cent of men and 55 per cent of women were employed, while more than one-third (36%) of women and less than one-quarter (23%) of men were not in the labour force.

OCCUPATION

The Croatia-born were mainly employed as labourers (21%)¹, technicians and trade workers (18%), managers (12%) and professionals (12%). Some occupations and rates were comparable to the total WA population, of which 17 per cent were technicians and trades workers, and 12 per cent were managers.

Croatia-born men were mainly employed as technicians and trade workers (29%), labourers (18%), and machinery operators and drivers (17%). Croatia-born women were mainly employed as labourers (24%), clerical and administrative workers (17%), and professionals (15%).

BUSINESS OWNERSHIP

In 2011, almost one-quarter (22%) of the Croatia-born were small or medium business owners, the same as in 2006 (22%) but larger compared with the proportion of the total WA population (15%).

Equal proportions of the businesses owned by the Croatia-born employed between one and 19 people (46%) or were self-managed (46%). The remainder (4%) employed 20 or more people. A larger proportion of Croatia-born men (27%) than women (16%) were business owners.

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 a miscellaneous category such as handypersons, recycling and rubbish collectors and vending machine attendants.



Weekly income	Croatia-born					WA population 2011		
	2011			2006*	2001**	Male %	Female %	Total %
Population (15+ years)	Male %	Female %	Total %	Total %	Total %	Male %	Female %	Total %
None	3.8	7.2	5.4	5.0	4.9	5.6	9.8	7.7
<\$300	25.3	27.7	26.5	34.3	48.8	11.7	19.8	15.7
\$300–999	35.8	46.7	41.3	41.6	34.0	29.3	41.9	35.6
\$1000 or more	29.8	13.4	21.8	14.0	7.3	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

More than one-third (41%) of the Croatia-born were middle income earners with a weekly income between \$300 and \$999. This proportion was larger than in 2001 (34%) and compared with all Western Australians (36%).

Between 2001 and 2011, the proportion of Croatia-born Western Australians earning a weekly income of \$1000 or more tripled (from 7% to 22%), but was smaller compared with the total WA population (32%). By contrast, the proportion of Croatia-born people earning a weekly income of less than \$300 decreased (from 49% to 27%), but was larger compared with all Western Australians (16%).

A small proportion (5%) of the Croatia-born was without a weekly income, unchanged since 2001 (5%) and comparable to the WA population (8%).

Larger proportions of Croatia-born women (47%) were middle income earners or without an income (7%) than men (36% and 4%, respectively). A larger proportion of men (30%) than women (13%) were high income earners.

HOUSING

In 2011, the majority (80%) of the Croatia-born owned their home compared with almost two-thirds (63%) of all Western Australians.

Half (50%) of the Croatia-born lived in a home they fully owned and almost one-third (30%) lived in a home they were purchasing. The comparative figures for the total WA population were 24 per cent and 39 per cent, respectively.

In 2011, 11 per cent of the Croatia-born were living in rental accommodation, a smaller proportion compared with the total WA population (26%).

Family

MARITAL STATUS

In 2011, two-thirds (66%) of the Croatia-born aged 25 years and over were married, comparable to 2006 (69%) but larger than the proportion of the total WA population (58%). A larger proportion of men (71%) than women (61%) were married.

Between 2006 and 2011, the proportion of the Croatia-born who were divorced or separated was stable (around 12%) and comparable to the total WA population (14%). The proportion of the Croatia-born who were widowed was also stable (around 12%), but was double that of the State population (6%). A larger proportion of women (20%) than men (5%) were widowed.

The proportion of the Croatia-born who had never married was comparable in 2011 (10%) and 2006 (9%) but smaller compared with the total Western Australian population (23%).

FAMILY COMPOSITION

In 2011, more than one-third (36%) of the Croatia-born lived in couple families with children, and an almost equal proportion lived in couple families without children (34%); both were comparable to the proportions in 2006 (41% and 31%, respectively). The comparative proportions of the Western Australian population were 45 per cent and 20 per cent, respectively.

In 2011, seven per cent of the Croatia-born lived in one-parent families, unchanged since 2006 (7%) and comparable to the proportion of the total WA population (10%). A larger proportion of women (10%) than men (5%) lived in one-parent families.

Registered marital status (25+ years)	Croatia-born				WA population 2011		
	2011			2006	Male %	Female %	Total %
	Male %	Female %	Total %	Total %	Male %	Female %	Total %
Married	71.1	61.4	66.3	69.1	59.0	57.1	58.1
Widowed	4.5	19.7	12.0	11.2	2.3	8.8	5.6
Divorced/separated	10.9	12.1	11.5	11.0	12.3	14.9	13.6
Never married	13.5	6.8	10.2	8.6	26.3	19.2	22.7
Family composition (all ages)							
Couple family with children	37.1	34.8	36.0	41.2	45.0	44.7	44.8
Couple family without children	36.6	31.7	34.2	31.1	19.4	20.3	19.8
One-parent family	4.5	9.9	7.1	7.1	7.8	12.0	9.9



LIVING ARRANGEMENTS

In 2011, almost two-thirds (63%) of the Croatia-born lived with a spouse or partner, the same as in 2006 (63%), but higher compared with the proportion of all Western Australians (42%). A larger proportion of Croatia-born men (66%) than women (60%) were living with a spouse.

The proportions of the Croatia-born living with other family or non-family members (12%), or not living at home (6%) were similar in 2006 and 2011 (14% and 5%, respectively). Both were smaller compared with the proportions of all Western Australians with the same living arrangements (34% and 8%, respectively).

A larger proportion of the Croatia-born lived alone compared with all Western Australians (20% and 12%, respectively). A larger proportion of Croatia-born women (25%) than men (15%) were living alone.

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, almost one-quarter (24%) of Croatia-born people aged 65 years and over required such assistance. More than one-quarter (28%) of Croatia-born older women required such assistance, which was larger than the proportion of men (19%). These proportions were larger compared with all Western Australians of the same age (18% and 13%, respectively). A small proportion (5%) of the Croatia-born aged between 15 and 64 required such assistance.

In 2011, 13 per cent of Croatia-born people aged 15 years and over were providing unpaid care and/or assistance to a family member, a rate comparable with that for the total WA population (9%).

More information

For more information and assistance, please contact:

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