



Western Australian Community Profiles 2011 Census

Democratic Republic of Congo-born

Introduction

This profile provides a range of information on Western Australians who were born in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DR Congo). Using 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 our 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.

DR Congo-born community in Western Australia

The DR Congo-born can be classified as a new and emerging community in Western Australia (WA). New and emerging communities are those with relatively small populations of which the majority of members arrived after 1991. The majority of the DR Congo-born arrived in Western Australia between 2001 and 2010, mainly as humanitarian entrants. In 2011, the DR Congo-born was one of WA's fastest growing communities.

DR CONGO-BORN AT A GLANCE

- There were 451 DR Congo-born people in WA, a larger number than in 2006 (173).
- There were 569 Western Australians with Congolese ancestry.
- The majority (84%) arrived in WA between 2001 and 2010.
- There were more men (239) than women (212) with a sex ratio of 113 men per 100 women.
- More than one-third (38%) were aged between 25 and 44 years, and the smallest group was older people aged 65 years and over (2%).
- Almost three-quarters (72%) spoke English well and spoke a language other than English (LOTE) at home.
- The main languages spoken by the DR Congo-born were Swahili (47%) and French (30%).

- ▣ Most (95%) of the DR Congo-born lived in the Greater Perth Metropolitan Area.
- ▣ Almost two-thirds (61%) of the DR Congo-born aged 15 years and over had completed Year 12 or an equivalent level of education, and almost half (47%) had a university (13%) or technical (34%) qualification.
- ▣ More than one-third (39%) were employed and a similar proportion were not in the labour force (38%).
- ▣ The DR Congo-born were employed mainly as community and personal service workers (26%), labourers (22%), and technicians and trade workers (14%).
- ▣ Almost two-thirds (61%) were middle or low income earners: 33 per cent had a weekly income of between \$300 and \$999, and 28 per cent earned less than \$300 per week. A small proportion (8%) had no weekly income.
- ▣ More than one-quarter (28%) owned their home.
- ▣ Almost three-quarters (72%) of the DR Congo-born aged 25 years and over were married and almost two-thirds (62%) lived in couple families with children.
- ▣ More than one-quarter (27%) of the DR Congo-born aged 65 years and over required assistance with everyday living.

Migration, culture, ancestry, language and religion

In 2011, there were 451 DR Congo-born Western Australians, representing 0.02 per cent of the State's total population. This group had grown by 160 per cent (from 173 people) since 2006. Almost two-thirds (61%) were Australian citizens.

ARRIVAL

The majority (84%) of the DR Congo-born population arrived in WA between 2001 and 2010, mainly through Australia's Humanitarian Program. This compares with the State's total overseas-born population of which 28 per cent arrived during the same period.

AGE AND GENDER

The DR Congo-born population is composed of a larger proportion of young people and a smaller proportion of older people compared with the total WA population. In 2011, more than one-third (38%) of the DR Congo-born were young adults aged between 25 and 44 years and more than one-quarter (27%) were young people aged between 15 and 24 years. Both proportions had increased since 2006 (from 34% and 19%, respectively) and were larger compared with all Western Australians (29% and 14%, respectively).

In 2011, the first cohort of the DR Congo-born aged 65 years and over (2%) was recorded. This proportion was smaller compared with the WA population (12%).

Between 2006 and 2011, there was a decrease in the proportion of DR Congo-born children aged between 0 and 14 years (from 27% to 13%) and this was smaller compared with the total WA population (20%).



Age and gender profile	DR Congo-born				WA population 2011		
	2011			2006	Male %	Female %	Total %
Age group	Male %	Female %	Total %	Total %	Male %	Female %	Total %
0–14 years	14.6	11.3	13.1	26.6	20.1	19.2	19.7
15–24 years	24.7	29.7	27.1	19.1	14.1	13.3	13.7
25–44 years	36.0	41.0	38.4	33.5	29.4	28.9	29.1
45–64 years	21.3	16.5	19.1	20.8	25.1	25.3	25.2
65+ years	3.3	1.4	2.4	0.0	11.3	13.2	12.3
All (number)	239	212	451	173	1,126,177	1,112,994	2,239,171
Sex ratio			112.7	168.6			101.2

In 2011, there were more DR Congo-born men than women. The sex ratio (number of men per 100 women) was approximately 113. This was lower than in 2006 (169) but higher compared with the total WA population (101).

ANCESTRY

People born in DR Congo, who have one or both parents born there or who were born elsewhere but have Congolese ancestors, may identify that they

have Congolese ancestry. In 2011, almost two-thirds (61%) of DR Congo-born people identified that they had Congolese ancestry. DR Congo-born Western Australians also reported that they had Belgian (8%), English (3%) and French (2%) ancestries. Most (96%) had one or both parents born overseas.

Small numbers and proportions of the WA population (569 or 0.02%) and the Australia-born (81 or 0.004%) identified that they have Congolese ancestry.

Ancestry	DR Congo-born		WA population 2011	Australia-born 2011
	2011	2006		
Self-identified ancestry	Total %	Total %	Total %	Total %
Congolese	61.4	N/A*	0.03	0.005
African, so described	17.6	4.0	0.3	0.08
Belgian	8.3	14.0	0.06	0.04
English	3.1	4.1	37.8	41.4
French	2.2	0.0	0.5	0.4
One or both parents born overseas	95.8	98.3	56.2	35.2
Both parents born in Australia	0.0	NA	43.8	64.8
One parent born in Australia	0.0	0.9	51.3	75.3

* N/A= Not available. Congolese ancestry was not listed in the 2006 Census.

Language	DR Congo-born				WA population 2011		
	2011			2006	Male %	Female %	Total %
English proficiency	Male %	Female %	Total %	Total%	Male %	Female %	Total %
Speaks English only	12.7	11.4	12.1	20.3	78.8	79.8	79.3
Other language and English; very well or well	79.3	64.5	72.3	60.5	12.4	12.7	12.5
Other language and English; not well or not at all	6.8	22.7	14.3	17.4	1.8	2.4	2.1
Main languages spoken at home other than English (top two responses)*							
Swahili	46.0	47.4	46.7	52.1	0.07	0.07	0.07
French	32.5	26.8	29.8	23.1	0.3	0.4	0.3

** Data presented in the first three columns are the top two responses for the DR Congo-born. Data for Western Australia are not the top responses and are presented for comparative purposes.*

LANGUAGES

In 2011, most (87%) of the DR Congo-born reported speaking a language other than English (LOTE) at home, mainly Swahili (47%) and French (30%).

Almost three-quarters (72%) of DR Congo-born Western Australians reported speaking a LOTE and speaking English well or very well, a larger proportion than in 2006 (61%). A larger proportion of DR Congo-born men (79%) than women (65%) reported a high level of English proficiency.

In 2011, 12 per cent of the DR Congo-born spoke only English, almost half the proportion in 2006 (20%). A similar proportion of the DR Congo-born (14%) reported speaking a LOTE and English not well or not at all. A larger proportion of DR Congo-born women (23%) than men (7%) reported lower levels of English proficiency.

RELIGION

In 2011, the majority (90%) of the DR Congo-born identified with Christianity, a larger proportion than in 2006 (84%). The proportions that identified as having no religion (6%) or with Islam (2%) were relatively unchanged. This was different to the general trend for the total WA population in which identification with Christianity had decreased and identification with non-Christian religions, or not identifying with any religion, had increased.



Geographic distribution

Between 2006 and 2011, the settlement pattern for DR Congo-born Western Australians was stable. In 2011, most (95%) lived in the Greater Perth Metropolitan Area and five per cent lived in non-metropolitan areas. Compared with the DR Congo-born, a smaller proportion of the WA population lived in the Greater Perth Metropolitan Area (77%) and a larger proportion (22%) lived in non-metropolitan areas.

Within the Greater Perth Metropolitan Area, the DR Congo-born lived mainly in the Local Government Areas (LGAs) of Stirling (25%), Wanneroo (12%) and Gosnells (9%).

Education

In 2011, almost two-thirds (61%) of DR Congo-born people aged 15 years and over had completed Year 12 or an equivalent level of education. This proportion was larger than in 2006 (51%) and compared with the total WA population (48%).

Between 2006 and 2011, the proportions of the DR Congo-born with qualifications at degree/tertiary level (13%) and advanced diploma, diploma or certificate level (34%) were relatively unchanged. The proportion of DR Congo-born with post-school qualifications was similar to that of all Western Australians (46% and 45%, respectively). A larger proportion of DR Congo-born men (56%) than women (36%) held a post-school qualification.

Comparable proportions of the DR Congo-born (1%) and all Western Australians (0.6%) had not attended school.

Educational attainment	DR Congo-born				WA population 2011		
	2011			2006	Male %	Female %	Total %
Population (15+ years)	Male %	Female %	Total %	Total %	Male %	Female %	Total %
Degree/tertiary level	18.1	6.4	12.5	14.2	15.9	19.2	17.5
Advanced diploma/diploma/certificate	37.3	29.8	33.7	30.7	32.8	22.4	27.6
Completed Year 12/equivalent	71.1	48.9	60.5	51.2	46.2	49.4	47.8
Did not attend school	0.0	2.1	1.0	4.7	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 (48%) of the DR Congo-born were in the labour force, a larger proportion than in 2006 (39%) but smaller compared with the total WA population (64%).

Between 2006 and 2011, there were increases in the proportions of people not in the labour force (from 33% to 38%) and unemployed (from 4% to 9%). These figures were larger compared with those for the total WA population (29% and 3%, respectively). The proportion of DR Congo-born people who were employed (39%) was almost unchanged since 2006 but smaller compared with all Western Australians (61%).

Labour force	DR Congo born				WA population 2011		
	2011			2006	Male %	Female %	Total %
Population (15+ years)	Male %	Female %	Total %	Total %	Male %	Female %	Total %
Employed	47.7	29.0	39.0	35.1	66.7	55.3	61.0
Unemployed	9.2	8.6	8.9	3.5	3.2	2.9	3.0
Not in the labour force	28.0	50.0	38.3	33.3	22.7	36.1	29.4

A larger proportion of DR Congo-born men (48%) than women (30%) were employed. A larger proportion of women (50%) than men (28%) were not in the labour force. These gender-based trends reflect those for the total WA population of which a larger proportion of men (67%) than women (55%) was employed, while a larger proportion of women (36%) than men (23%) was not in the labour force.

OCCUPATION

In 2011, DR Congo-born people were employed mainly as community and personal service workers (26%), labourers¹ (22%), and technicians and trade workers (14%). The proportion of DR Congo-born technicians and trade workers was comparable to the WA population (17%), while the proportions of community and personal service workers and labourers were larger (9% and 10%, respectively).

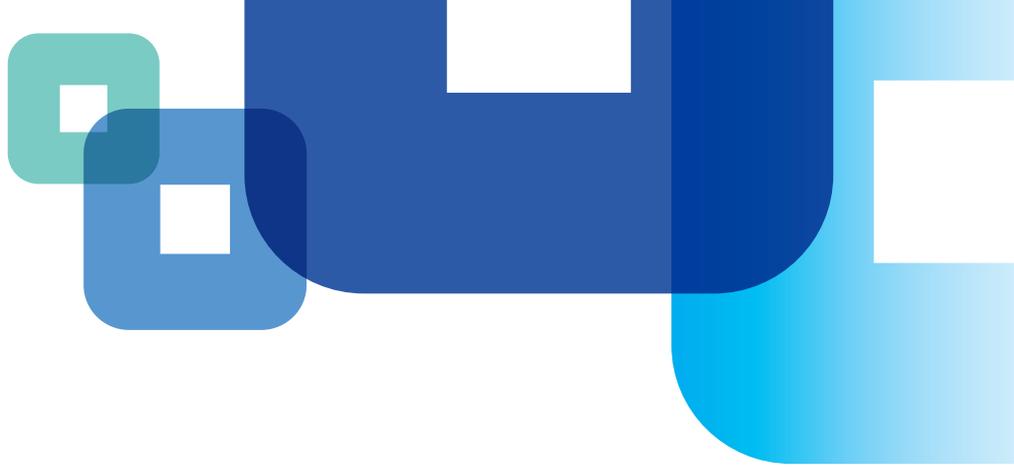
DR Congo-born men were employed mainly as technicians and trade workers (22%), labourers (22%), and community and personal service workers (21%). DR Congo-born women were employed mainly as community and personal service workers (36%), labourers (21%) and sales workers (13%).

BUSINESS OWNERSHIP

In 2011, five per cent of the DR Congo-born were small or medium business owners. This was a smaller proportion than in 2006 (10%) and compared with the total WA population (15%).

Almost half (44%) of the businesses owned by the DR Congo-born employed between one and 19 people, and more than half (56%) were self-managed. A slightly larger proportion of DR Congo-born women (8%) than men (4%) 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	DR Congo-born				WA population 2011		
	2011			2006*	Male %	Female %	Total %
Population (15+ years)	Male %	Female %	Total %	Total %	Male %	Female %	Total %
None	6.7	9.5	8.0	2.3	5.6	9.8	7.7
<\$300	22.7	34.6	28.3	28.9	11.7	19.8	15.7
\$300–999	33.6	31.3	32.5	25.4	29.3	41.9	35.6
\$1000 or more	17.6	3.3	10.9	9.8	43.0	20.2	31.6

**Unlike 2011, the threshold for the 2006 Census was less than \$250. The next income bracket was \$250–999.*

INCOME

One-third (33%) of the DR Congo-born were middle income earners with a weekly income of between \$300 and \$999, which had increased since 2006 (25%) but was comparable to the proportion of all Western Australians (36%).

Between 2006 and 2011, the proportions of DR Congo-born people earning high incomes of \$1000 or more per week (11%) or less than \$300 per week (28%) were relatively stable. A larger proportion of men (18%) than women (3%) were high income earners.

A smaller proportion (8%) of the DR Congo-born was without a weekly income. This proportion had increased since 2006 (2%) but was comparable to the WA population (8%).

HOUSING

In 2011, more than one-quarter (28%) of DR Congo-born people owned their home compared with almost two-thirds (63%) of all Western Australians.

A larger proportion of the DR Congo-born lived in a home they were purchasing (20%) than lived in a home they fully owned (7%). These proportions were smaller compared with the total WA population (39% and 24%, respectively).

Almost two-thirds (65%) of the DR Congo-born were living in rental accommodation, more than double the proportion of the total WA population (26%).

Family

MARITAL STATUS

In 2011, almost three-quarters (72%) of the DR Congo-born aged 25 years and over were married. This was unchanged since 2006, but larger compared with the total WA population (58%). A larger proportion of men (76%) than women (68%) were married.

Between 2006 and 2011, there was an increase in the proportion of the DR Congo-born who were divorced or separated (from 3% to 11%) but this was comparable to the total WA population (14%).

The proportion of the DR Congo-born widowed decreased (from 9% to 4%) and was comparable to the total WA population (6%). All widowed DR Congo-born people were women. The proportion of the DR Congo-born who had never married (13%) was stable since 2006 (15%) but lower compared with the total WA population (23%). A larger proportion of men (19%) than women (6%) had never married.

FAMILY COMPOSITION

In 2011, almost two-thirds (62%) of DR Congo-born people lived in couple families with children, a larger proportion than in 2006 (53%) and compared with the total WA population (45%).

A smaller proportion (10%) lived in couple families without children. This proportion was comparable to 2006 (6%) but smaller compared with the total WA population (20%).

The proportion of the DR Congo-born living in one-parent families was unchanged between 2006 and 2011 (17%), but was larger compared with the total WA population (10%). A larger proportion of women (23%) than men (12%) lived in one-parent families.

Registered marital status (25+years)	DR Congo-born				WA population 2011		
	2011			2006	Male %	Female %	Total %
	Male %	Female %	Total %	Total %			
Married	75.9	68.0	72.2	73.4	59.0	57.1	58.1
Widowed	0.0	9.6	4.4	8.5	2.3	8.8	5.6
Divorced/separated	7.6	14.4	10.7	3.2	12.3	14.9	13.6
Never married	18.6	5.6	12.6	14.9	26.3	19.2	22.7
Family composition (all ages)							
Couple family with children	60.4	62.6	61.5	53.1	45.0	44.7	44.8
Couple family without children	12.8	6.5	9.8	5.7	19.4	20.3	19.8
One-parent family	12.3	22.9	17.4	17.1	7.8	12.0	9.9



LIVING ARRANGEMENTS

In 2011, almost half (43%) of the DR Congo-born were living with a spouse or partner. This was a larger proportion than in 2006 (35%) but comparable to the total WA population (42%).

Between 2006 and 2011, there was a decrease in the proportions of the DR Congo-born living with other family or non-family members (from 43% to 38%), but this was the same as the proportion of total WA population (38%). The proportions of the DR Congo-born who were living alone (12%) or not living at home (4%) were relatively unchanged (16% and 6%, respectively) and were also similar to the total WA population (12% and 8%, respectively).

A larger proportion of DR Congo-born women (18%) than men (7%) 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, more than one-third (38%) of DR Congo-born women aged 65 years and over required such assistance. This proportion was larger compared with that for all Western Australian women of the same age (18%).

In 2011, 12 per cent of the DR Congo-born were providing unpaid care and/or assistance to a family member, which was comparable to the total WA population (9%).

More information

For more information and assistance, please contact:

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