



Western Australian Community Profiles 2011 Census

El Salvador-born

Introduction

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

El Salvador-born community in Western Australia

Migration from El Salvador to Western Australia (WA) began in the 1980s following the country's civil war. The largest number of the El Salvador-born (653 people) arrived in WA between 1981 and 1990, mainly under the Special Humanitarian Program. Migration of El Salvador-born people has slowed since 1990: 439 people arrived between 1991 and 2000, and 72 between 2001 and 2010.

EL SALVADOR-BORN COMMUNITY AT A GLANCE

- There were 1203 El Salvador-born people in WA in 2011, a slightly larger number than in 2006 (1137).
- There were 970 Western Australians with Salvadoran ancestry.
- More than half (54%) arrived in WA between 1981 and 1991.
- There were more women (620) than men (583) with a sex ratio of 94 men for every 100 women.
- Almost half (44%) of the El Salvador-born were young adults aged between 25 and 44 years. The smallest group was children aged between 0 and 14 years (one per cent).
- The median age of the El Salvador-born was 41 years.
- Three-quarters (77%) spoke English well and spoke a language other than English (LOTE) at home.

- ▣ The main language spoken by the El Salvador-born was Spanish (90%).
- ▣ Most (97%) of the El Salvador-born lived in the Greater Perth Metropolitan Area.
- ▣ More than three-quarters (76%) of the El Salvador-born aged 15 years and over had completed Year 12 or an equivalent level of education; more than half (56%) had a university (20%) or technical (36%) qualification.
- ▣ More than two-thirds (70%) were employed and one-quarter (25%) were not in the labour force.
- ▣ The El Salvador-born were employed mainly as labourers (20%), professionals (17%), and technicians and trade workers (16%).
- ▣ More than two-thirds (70%) were medium or high income earners; 45 per cent had a weekly income between \$300 and \$999, and 25 per cent earned \$1000 or more per week. Less than one-tenth (6%) had no weekly income.
- ▣ Almost two-thirds (62%) of the El Salvador-born owned their home.
- ▣ Almost two-thirds (64%) of the El Salvador-born aged 25 years and over were married and more than half (59%) lived in couple families with children.
- ▣ One-quarter (25%) of the El Salvador-born aged 65 years and over required assistance with everyday living.

Migration, culture, ancestry, language and religion

In 2011, there were 1203 El Salvador-born Western Australians, representing 0.05 per cent of the State's total population. This group had increased by six per cent (from 1137) since 2006. Most (91%) were Australian citizens.

ARRIVAL

More than half (54%) of the El Salvador-born arrived in WA between 1981 and 1990, mainly under the Special Humanitarian Program. This compares with the State's overseas-born population of which 12 per cent arrived during the same period.

AGE AND GENDER

The El Salvador-born population is composed of a larger proportion of young adults and adults and a smaller proportion of children than the total WA population. In 2011, almost half (44%) were young adults aged between 25 and 44 years and more than one-third (35%) were adults aged between 45 and 64 years. These proportions were larger than in 2001 (36% and 22%, respectively) and compared with the total WA population (29% and 25%, respectively). The median age of El Salvador-born people was 41 years, compared with 36 years for the total WA population.

The proportion of the El Salvador-born aged between 0 and 14 years decreased between 2001 and 2011 (from 11% to 1%) and was smaller compared with the proportion of all Western Australians of the same age (20%). The proportion of young people aged between 15 and 24 years also decreased (28% to 12%) during the same period, but was comparable to all Western Australians of the same age (14%).

The proportion of older people aged 65 years and over increased (from 3% to 8%) but was smaller compared with the total WA population (12%).



Age and gender profile	El Salvador-born					WA population 2011		
	2011			2006	2001	Male %	Female %	Total %
Age group	Male %	Female %	Total %	Total %	Total %	Male %	Female %	Total %
0–14 years	1.2	1.6	1.4	1.5	11.0	20.1	19.2	19.7
15–24 years	12.3	11.0	11.6	22.9	27.9	14.1	13.3	13.7
25–44 years	45.6	42.3	43.9	40.3	36.4	29.4	28.9	29.1
45–64 years	33.4	36.6	35.1	31.0	22.1	25.1	25.3	25.2
65+ years	7.4	8.5	8.0	4.4	2.6	11.3	13.2	12.3
All (number)	583	620	1203	1137	1171	1,126,177	1,112,994	2,239,171
Sex ratio			94	96.4	NA			101.2

In 2011, there were more El Salvador-born women than men. The sex ratio (number of men per 100 women) was 94, almost unchanged since 2006 (96) but lower compared with the total WA population (101).

ANCESTRY

People born in El Salvador, who have one or more parents born there, or who were born elsewhere but have Salvadoran ancestors, may identify that they have Salvadoran ancestry. In 2011, more than half (54%) of the

El Salvador-born identified that they have Salvadoran ancestry and more than one-quarter (27%) identified that they have Spanish ancestry. Smaller proportions identified as having Peoples of the Americas (9%), Hispanic (North American) (4%) and Central American (2%) ancestries. Most (97%) had one or both parents born overseas.

Small numbers and proportions of the WA population (970 or 0.04%) and the Australia-born (284 or 0.02%) identified that they have Salvadoran ancestry.

Ancestry	El Salvador-born		WA population 2011	Australia-born 2011
	2011	2006		
Self-identified ancestry	Total %	Total %	Total %	Total %
Salvadoran	54.4	57.6	0.04	0.02
Spanish	26.9	24.6	0.3	0.3
Peoples of the Americas, not further defined	8.7	NA	0.02	0.0*
Hispanic (North American)	3.7	8.0	0.01	0.0*
Central American, not further defined	1.5	1.7	0.0*	0.0*
One or both parents born overseas	96.8	94.8	56.2	35.2
Both parents born in Australia	0.1	0.0	43.8	64.8
One parent born in Australia	0.2	0.4	51.3	75.3

* The proportions are listed as zero because of the small numbers identifying with these ancestries.

Language	El Salvador-born					WA population 2011		
	2011			2006	2001	Male %	Female %	Total %
English proficiency	Male %	Female %	Total %	Total %	Total %	Male %	Female %	Total %
English only	8.7	7.8	8.2	6.6	4.4	78.8	79.8	79.3
Other language and English; very well or well	79.3	74.8	77.0	76.1	79.2	12.4	12.7	12.5
Other language and English; not well or not at all	10.8	16.8	13.9	15.9	15.6	1.8	2.4	2.1
Main language spoken at home other than English (top two responses)*								
Spanish	89.6	90.3	90.0	91.0	94.0	0.3	0.4	0.4
Italian	0.0	0.8	0.4	6.7	0.7	1.3	1.5	1.4

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

LANGUAGES

In 2011, most (91%) El Salvador-born Western Australians reported speaking a language other than English (LOTE) at home, mainly Spanish (90%). In 2006, seven per cent of the El Salvador-born reported speaking Italian, but this had decreased to less than one per cent by 2011.

In 2011, more than three-quarters (77%) of the El Salvador-born reported speaking a LOTE and speaking English very well or well, relatively unchanged since 2001 (79%).

Between 2001 and 2011, the proportion of El Salvador-born people who spoke only English at home doubled (from 4% to 8%). Similar proportions of men (9%) and women (8%) spoke only English at home. The proportion of the El Salvador-born who reported speaking a LOTE and English not well or not at all (14%) was unchanged since 2001 (15%). A larger proportion of women (17%) than men (11%) reported low levels of English language proficiency.

RELIGION

In 2011, most (89%) El Salvador-born Western Australians reported an affiliation with Christianity, and smaller proportions identified as having no religion (8%) or with Islam (0.5%). Since 2006, identification with Christianity and Islam was almost unchanged (92% and 0.5%, respectively), while the proportion identifying with no religion had doubled (from 4%). This compares with the general trend for the total WA population in which identification with Christianity has decreased and identification with non-Christian religions or not identifying with any religion has increased.



Geographic distribution

Between 2001 and 2011, the settlement pattern for El Salvador-born Western Australians remained stable. In 2011, most (97%) lived in the Greater Perth Metropolitan Area and three per cent lived in non-metropolitan areas. Compared with the El Salvador-born, the proportion of the total WA population living in the Greater Metropolitan Perth Area was smaller (77%) and in the non-metropolitan areas was larger (22%).

Within the Greater Perth Metropolitan Area, the El Salvador-born lived mainly in the Local Government Areas (LGAs) of Cockburn (20%), Wanneroo (17%) and Stirling (14%).

Education

In 2011, more than three-quarters (76%) of the El Salvador-born aged 15 years and over had completed Year 12 or an equivalent level of education. This was a larger proportion than in 2001 (64%) and compared with the total WA population (48%).

Between 2001 and 2011, there was an increase in the proportions of the El Salvador-born with qualifications at degree/tertiary level (from 12% to 20%) and at advanced diploma, diploma or certificate level (from 23% to 36%). A larger proportion of the El Salvador-born (56%) than the total WA population (45%) held post-school qualifications.

A small proportion (2%) of El Salvador-born Western Australians reported that they had not attended school, which was comparable to the total WA population (0.6%).

Educational attainment	El Salvador-born					WA population 2011		
	2011			2006	2001	Male %	Female %	Total %
Population (15+ years)	Male %	Female %	Total %	Total %	Total %	Male %	Female %	Total %
Degree/tertiary level	20.0	20.0	20.0	14.4	11.5	15.9	19.2	17.5
Advanced diploma/ diploma/ certificate	35.2	36.7	36.0	30.5	23.0	32.8	22.4	27.6
Completed Year 12/equivalent	76.0	76.1	76.1	71.6	63.5	46.2	49.4	47.8
Did not attend school	0.9	3.0	1.9	2.1	1.4	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 three-quarters (74%) of El Salvador-born Western Australians were in the labour force, a larger proportion than in 2001 (64%) and compared with the total WA population (64%).

Between 2001 and 2011, there were decreases in the proportions of the El Salvador-born who were unemployed (from 10% to 4%) and not in the labour force (from 35% to 25%): both were comparable to the total WA population (3% and 29%, respectively). More than two-thirds (70%) of the El Salvador-born were employed, a larger proportion than in 2001 (54%) and compared with all Western Australians (61%).

A larger proportion of El Salvador-born men (80%) than women (61%) were employed. A larger proportion of women (34%) than men (16%) were not in the labour force. 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 of the women (36%) and less than one-quarter of men (23%) were not in the labour force.

OCCUPATION

The El Salvador-born were mainly employed as labourers (20%)¹, professionals (17%), technicians and trade workers (16%), and community and personal workers (15%). Similar proportions of the total WA population were employed as professionals (20%) and technicians and trade workers (17%).

El Salvador-born men were mainly employed as technicians and trade workers (24%), labourers (23%) and professionals (15%). El Salvador-born women were mainly employed as community and personal service workers (26%), professionals (19%) and labourers (17%).

BUSINESS OWNERSHIP

In 2011, seven per cent of the El Salvador-born were small or medium business owners, similar to 2006 (6%) but half the proportion of the total WA population (15%).

Almost two-thirds (63%) of the businesses owned by the El Salvador-born were self-managed and the remainder (38%) employed between one and 19 people.

A larger proportion of El Salvador-born men (9%) than women (4%) were business owners.

Labour force	El Salvador-born					WA population 2011		
	2011			2006	2001	Male %	Female %	Total %
Population (15+ years)	Male %	Female %	Total %	Total %	Total %	Male %	Female %	Total %
Employed	79.5	60.8	69.9	67.9	53.9	66.7	55.3	61.0
Unemployed	4.2	3.3	3.7	3.7	9.6	3.2	2.9	3.0
Not in the labour force	15.8	34.1	25.2	26.2	34.9	22.7	36.1	29.4

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	El Salvador-born					WA population 2011		
	2011			2006*	2001**	Male %	Female %	Total %
Population (15+ years)	Male %	Female %	Total %	Total %	Total %	Male %	Female %	Total %
None	4.1	7.1	5.7	6.9	6.0	5.6	9.8	7.7
<\$300	12.8	23.9	18.5	24.3	44.5	11.7	19.8	15.7
\$300–999	40.5	49.0	44.9	53.7	41.0	29.3	41.9	35.6
\$1000 or more	36.1	15.4	25.4	8.8	1.7	43.0	20.2	31.6

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

INCOME

Almost half (45%) of the El Salvador-born were middle income earners with a weekly income between \$300 and \$999. This proportion was smaller than in 2006 (54%) but larger compared with 2001 (41%) and with all Western Australians (36%). The proportion of the El Salvador-born earning less than \$300 per week also decreased between 2006 and 2011 (from 24% to 19%) but was comparable to the proportion of all Western Australians (16%).

By contrast, the proportion of the El Salvador-born earning a weekly wage of \$1000 or more tripled between 2006 and 2011 (from 8% to 25%), but was smaller compared with the total WA population (32%).

Less than one-tenth (6%) of the El Salvador-born were without a weekly income. This was comparable to 2001 (6%) and the total WA population (8%).

Almost half (49%) of El Salvador-born women and more than one-third (41%) of men were middle income earners. The proportion of men (36%) earning a high income was double the proportion of women (15%), while the proportion of women (24%) earning a low income was almost double that of men (13%).

HOUSING

In 2011, almost two-thirds (62%) of the El Salvador-born owned their home, which was comparable to all Western Australians (63%).

More than half (55%) of the El Salvador-born lived in a home they were purchasing and seven per cent lived in a home they fully owned. The comparative figures for the total WA population were 39 per cent and 24 per cent, respectively.

In 2011, almost one-third (32%) of El Salvador-born Western Australians lived in rental accommodation, a larger proportion compared with the total WA population (26%).

Family

MARITAL STATUS

In 2011, almost two-thirds (64%) of the El Salvador-born aged 25 years and over were married, comparable to the proportion in 2006 (62%) but larger compared with the total WA population (58%).

Between 2006 and 2011, the proportions of the El Salvador-born who were widowed (3%), divorced or separated (10%) or never married (24%) remained stable, and were comparable to the proportions of all Western Australians (6%, 14% and 23%, respectively).

A larger proportion of women (5%) than men (less than 1%) were widowed, and a larger proportion of men (27%) than women (20%) were never married.

FAMILY COMPOSITION

In 2011, nearly two-thirds (59%) of the El Salvador-born lived in couple families with children, a smaller proportion than in 2006 (68%) but larger compared with the total WA population (45%). By contrast, the proportion of the El Salvador-born living in couple families without children almost doubled (from 10% to 18%) for the same period, and was comparable to the proportion of all Western Australians (20%).

Between 2006 and 2011, the proportion of the El Salvador-born living in one-parent families was unchanged (10%) and was comparable to the total WA population (10%). A larger proportion of El Salvador-born women were living in a one-parent family than men (14% and 6%, respectively).

Registered marital status (25+ years)	El Salvador-born				WA population 2011		
	2011			2006	Male %	Female %	Total %
	Male %	Female %	Total %	Total %			
Married	63.9	64.2	64.1	61.9	59.0	57.1	58.1
Widowed	0.6	4.8	2.8	3.1	2.3	8.8	5.6
Divorced/separated	7.7	11.4	9.7	11.0	12.3	14.9	13.6
Never married	27.4	19.9	23.5	21.9	26.3	19.2	22.7

Family composition (all ages)

Couple family with children	60.9	56.6	58.7	68.2	45.0	44.7	44.8
Couple family without children	17.3	18.5	17.9	10.3	19.4	20.3	19.8
One-parent family	5.7	14.4	9.9	10.4	7.8	12.0	9.9



LIVING ARRANGEMENTS

In 2011, almost two-thirds (60%) of the El Salvador-born lived with a spouse or partner, a larger proportion than in 2006 (55%) and compared with all Western Australians (42%). Equal proportions of men (60%) and women (61%) were living with a spouse or partner.

The proportion of the El Salvador-born not living at home (5%) had also increased since 2006 (3%) but was smaller compared with the total WA population (8%).

The proportion of the El Salvador-born living with other family or non-family members decreased between 2006 and 2011 (from 30% to 23%) and was smaller compared with the total WA population (34%).

Comparable proportions of the El Salvador-born and of all Western Australians were living alone (11% and 12%, respectively). A larger proportion of El Salvador-born women than men were living alone (15% 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 El Salvador-born people aged 65 years and over required such assistance, a larger proportion compared with all Western Australians of the same age (16%). A larger proportion of El Salvador-born older women (28%) required assistance than older men (21%). A small proportion (2%) of the El Salvador-born aged between 15 and 64 required assistance.

In 2011, eight per cent of the El Salvador-born aged 15 years and over 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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