



Western Australian Community Profiles 2011 Census

Ethiopia-born

Introduction

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

Ethiopia-born community in Western Australia

The Ethiopia-born are a new and emerging community in Western Australia (WA). New and emerging communities are those that have relatively small populations of which the majority arrived after 1991. Migration from Ethiopia to Australia and Western Australia began in the 1970s with the arrival of small numbers of humanitarian entrants. Almost two-thirds (62%) of WA's Ethiopia-born community arrived between 2001 and 2010, mainly as humanitarian entrants.

ETHIOPIA-BORN COMMUNITY AT A GLANCE

- There were 1152 Ethiopia-born people in WA in 2011, almost double compared with 2006 (654).
- There were 745 Western Australians with Ethiopian ancestry.
- Almost two-thirds (62%) arrived in WA between 2001 and 2010.
- Almost two-thirds (65%) were Australian citizens.
- There were more men (590) than women (562) with a sex ratio of 105 men for every 100 women.
- More than half (52%) of the Ethiopia-born were young adults aged between 25 and 44 years; the smallest group was older people aged 65 years and over (less than 1%).
- More than two-thirds (70%) of the Ethiopia-born spoke English well and spoke a language other than English (LOTE) at home.

- ▣ The main languages spoken by the Ethiopia-born were Amharic (39%) and Oromo (15%).
- ▣ Most (97%) Ethiopia-born people lived in the Greater Perth Metropolitan Area.
- ▣ More than half (53%) of the Ethiopia-born aged 15 years and over had completed Year 12 or an equivalent level of education, and almost one-quarter (23%) had a technical qualification.
- ▣ More than half (56%) were employed and one-third (33%) was not in the labour force.
- ▣ The Ethiopia-born were employed mainly as labourers (28%), community and personal service workers (21%), and machinery operators and drivers (19%).
- ▣ Almost half (44%) were middle income earners with a weekly income between \$300 and \$999, and almost one-quarter (23%) had a weekly income of less than \$300.
- ▣ More than one-third (39%) of the Ethiopia-born owned their home.
- ▣ Almost two-thirds (64%) of the Ethiopia-born aged 25 years and over were married and more than half (53%) lived in couple families with children.
- ▣ Two-thirds (67%) of the Ethiopia-born aged 65 years and over required assistance with everyday living.

Migration, culture, ancestry, language and religion

In 2011, there were 1152 Ethiopia-born Western Australians, representing less than one per cent of the State's total population. This group almost doubled (from 654) between 2006 and 2011. Almost two-thirds (65%) were Australian citizens.

ARRIVAL

Almost two-thirds (59%) of the Ethiopia-born arrived in WA between 2001 and 2010. This compares with the State's total overseas-born population of which 28 per cent arrived during the same period. More than one-quarter (28%) of the Ethiopia-born arrived in WA between 1991 and 2000.

AGE AND GENDER

The Ethiopia-born population was composed of a larger proportion of young adults and a smaller proportion of children and older people than the total WA population. In 2011, more than half (52%) were young adults aged between 25 and 44 years, a smaller proportion than in 2001 (58%), but larger compared with the proportion of all Western Australians (29%). The proportion of adults aged between 45 and 64 years also increased (from 9% to 21%) and was comparable to the total WA population (25%).

In 2011, 12 per cent of the Ethiopia-born were children aged between 0 and 14 years, which was comparable to 2006 (12%) but was almost half compared with the total WA population (20%). Less than one per cent of the Ethiopia-born were older people aged 65 and over, a smaller proportion compared with the total WA population (12%). The proportion of young people aged between 15 and 24 years had also decreased (from 17% to 14%), but was comparable to the proportion of all Western Australians of a similar age (14%).



Age and gender profile	Ethiopia-born					WA population 2011		
	2011			2006	2001	Male %	Female %	Total %
Age group	Male %	Female %	Total %	Total %	Total %	Male %	Female %	Total %
0–14 years	12.0	11.9	12.0	11.6	14.6	20.1	19.2	19.7
15–24 years	12.5	16.2	14.3	13.8	17.0	14.1	13.3	13.7
25–44 years	46.9	56.8	51.7	59.0	57.8	29.4	28.9	29.1
45–64 years	27.5	14.6	21.1	14.2	8.9	25.1	25.3	25.2
65+ years	1.0	0.5	0.7	1.4	1.8	11.3	13.2	12.3
All (number)	590	562	1152	654	405	1,126,177	1,112,994	2,239,171
Sex ratio			105	105	N/A			101.2

In 2011, there were more Ethiopia-born men than women. The sex ratio (number of men per 100 women) was approximately 105, which was higher compared with the total WA population (101).

ANCESTRY

People born in Ethiopia, who have one or both parents born there, or who were born elsewhere but have Ethiopian ancestors, may identify that they have Ethiopian ancestry. In 2011, two thirds (65%) of

the Ethiopia-born identified that they had Ethiopian ancestry. Ethiopia-born Western Australians also reported that they had Oromo (8%), Sudanese (3%), Eritrean (3%) and Somali (2%) ancestry. Most (93%) had one or both parents born overseas.

Small numbers and proportions of the WA population (1299 or 0.06%) and the Australia-born (287 or 0.02%) identified that they had Ethiopian ancestry.

Ancestry	Ethiopia-born		WA population 2011	Australia-born 2011
	2011	2006		
Self-identified ancestry	Total %	Total %	Total %	Total %
Ethiopian	64.7	66.8	0.06	0.02
Oromo	7.9	N/A	0.007	0.002
Sudanese	3.0	4.3	0.1	0.03
Eritrean	2.7	3.7	0.03	0.01
Somali	2.3	N/A	0.08	0.04
One or both parents born overseas	93.7	95.8	56.2	35.2
Both parents born in Australia	1.6	N/A	43.8	64.8
One parent born in Australia	2.1	1.1	51.3	75.3

Language	Ethiopia-born					WA population 2011		
	2011			2006	2001	Male %	Female %	Total %
English proficiency	Male %	Female %	Total %	Total %	Total %	Male %	Female %	Total %
English only	11.5	10.3	10.9	12.7	9.7	78.8	79.8	79.3
Other language and English; very well or well	74.2	66.4	70.4	68.5	74.6	12.4	12.7	12.5
Other language and English; not well or not at all	11.0	21.4	16.1	15.9	15.8	1.8	2.4	2.1
Main language spoken at home other than English (top two responses)*								
Amharic	39.5	38.4	39.0	41.0	38.3	0.03	0.03	0.03
Oromo	15.0	14.9	15.0	9.6	10.8	0.01	0.01	0.01

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

LANGUAGES

In 2011, most (87%) Ethiopia-born Western Australians reported speaking a LOTE at home, mainly Amharic (39%) and Oromo (15%). In 2011, more than two-thirds (70%) of the Ethiopia-born reported speaking a LOTE and speaking English well, which was comparable to 2001 (75%).

Between 2001 and 2011, there was no change in the proportion of people who spoke only English at home (11%) or who spoke a LOTE and English not well or not at all (16%). A larger proportion of Ethiopia-born women (21%) than men (11%) reported speaking a LOTE and English not well or not at all.

RELIGION

The religious affiliation of Ethiopia-born Western Australians was almost unchanged between 2001 and 2011. Almost three-quarters (74%) identified with Christianity and almost one-fifth (19%) identified with Islam. A smaller proportion (3%) of the Ethiopia-born did not identify with any religion. This pattern contrasts with the 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 Ethiopia-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 Ethiopia-born, a smaller proportion of the total Western Australian population lived in the Greater Metropolitan Perth Area (77%) and a larger proportion lived in non-metropolitan areas (22%).

Within the Greater Perth Metropolitan Area, the Ethiopia-born lived mainly in the Local Government Areas (LGAs) of Stirling (28%), Wanneroo (15%) and Gosnells (10%).

Education

In 2011, more than half (53%) of the Ethiopia-born aged 15 years and over had completed Year 12 or an equivalent level of education. This was similar to the proportion in 2006 (46%) and 2001 (55%), and to the total WA population (48%).

Between 2001 and 2011, there was an increase in the proportion of the Ethiopia-born with qualifications at advanced diploma, diploma and certificate level (from 18% to 23%). A smaller proportion of the Ethiopia-born held post-school qualifications compared with the total WA population (35% and 45%, respectively). A larger proportion of Ethiopia-born men (38%) than women (32%) had a post-school qualification.

In 2011, eight per cent of Ethiopia-born Western Australians reported that they had not attended school, compared with less than one per cent of the total WA population.

Educational attainment	Ethiopia-born					WA population 2011		
	2011			2006	2001	Male %	Female %	Total %
Population (15+ years)	Male %	Female %	Total %	Total %	Total %	Male %	Female %	Total %
Degree/tertiary level	15.0	8.0	11.6	9.2	10.7	15.9	19.2	17.5
Advanced diploma/diploma/certificate	23.0	23.6	23.4	19.9	17.6	32.8	22.4	27.6
Completed Year 12/equivalent	57.0	49.3	53.2	46.3	54.6	46.2	49.4	47.8
Did not attend school	5.6	9.8	7.7	6.6	5.2	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 (64%) of Ethiopia-born Western Australians were in the labour force. This rate was larger compared with 2006 (58%), but comparable to 2001 (63%) and the total State population (64%).

Between 2001 and 2011, there was a decrease in the proportion of the Ethiopia-born who were not in the labour force (from 38% to 33%), which was comparable to the total WA population (29%). There was an increase in the proportion of the Ethiopia-born employed (from 50% to 56%), which was comparable to the total State population (61%).

Labour force	Ethiopia-born					WA population 2011		
	2011			2006	2001	Male %	Female %	Total %
Population (15+ years)	Male %	Female %	Total %	Total %	Total %	Male %	Female %	Total %
Employed	66.8	45.8	56.2	54.8	50.3	66.7	55.3	61.0
Unemployed	5.9	8.5	7.4	3.5	12.4	3.2	2.9	3.0
Not in the labour force	23.7	42.6	32.9	36.3	38.2	22.7	36.1	29.4

The rate of unemployment decreased (from 12% to 7%) during the same period, but was higher compared with that for the total State population (3%).

A larger proportion of Ethiopia-born men (67%) than women (46%) were employed. A larger proportion of women than men were not in the labour force (43% and 24%, 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 of women (36%) and less than a quarter of men (23%) were not in the labour force.

OCCUPATION

The Ethiopia-born were mainly employed as labourers¹ (28%), community and personal service workers (21%), and machinery operators and drivers (19%). These rates were in contrast to the total WA population, of which 10 per cent were labourers, nine per cent were community and personal service workers, and eight per cent were machinery operators and drivers.

Ethiopia-born men were mainly employed as machinery operators and drivers (29%), labourers (27%) and professionals (13%). Ethiopia-born women were mainly employed as community and personal service workers (40%), labourers (29%) and professionals (12%).

BUSINESS OWNERSHIP

In 2011, 16 per cent of the Ethiopia-born were small or medium business owners, a larger proportion than in 2006 (11%) and comparable to the total WA population (15%).

Almost one-third (31%) of the businesses owned by the Ethiopia-born employed between one and 19 people, and almost two-thirds (64%) were self-managed. A larger proportion of Ethiopia-born men (24%) than women (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	Ethiopia-born					WA population 2011		
	2011			2006*	2001**	Male %	Female %	Total %
Population (15+ years)	Male %	Female %	Total %	Total %	Total %	Male %	Female %	Total %
None	6.9	13.2	10.0	6.9	3.2	5.6	9.8	7.7
<\$300	18.0	27.0	22.6	19.6	49.6	11.7	19.8	15.7
\$300–999	44.9	43.6	44.0	42.0	38.1	29.3	41.9	35.6
\$1000 or more	19.8	6.8	13.5	7.8	3.8	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

Almost half (44%) of the Ethiopia-born were middle income earners with a weekly income of between \$300 and \$999. This proportion was almost unchanged since 2001 (38%) and larger compared with the proportion of all Western Australians (36%).

Between 2001 and 2011, the proportion of Ethiopia-born Western Australians earning \$1000 or more per week increased (from 4% to 14%), but was smaller than the proportion of the WA population (32%). By contrast, the proportion of people earning less than \$300 per week decreased (from 50% to 23%), but this was larger compared with all Western Australians (16%).

A small proportion (10%) of the Ethiopia-born was without a weekly income, which was larger compared with 2001 (3%) and comparable to the proportion of the WA population (8%).

Almost equal proportions of Ethiopia-born women (44%) and men (45%) were middle income earners. A larger proportion of men (20%) than women (7%) were high income earners, while a larger proportion of women (13%) than men (7%) had no income.

HOUSING

In 2011, more than one-third (39%) of the Ethiopia-born owned their home compared with almost two-thirds (63%) of all Western Australians.

Among the Ethiopia-born, a small proportion (7%) lived in a home they fully owned and almost one-third (32%) 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, more than half (53%) of the Ethiopia-born 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 Ethiopia-born aged 25 years and over were married, comparable to 2006 (62%) but larger than the proportion of the total WA population (58%). Almost equal proportions of women (65%) and men (64%) were married.

Between 2006 and 2011, the proportions of Ethiopia-born people who were divorced or separated (19%), widowed (2%) or never married (15%) were unchanged. A larger proportion of women (23%) than men (15%) were divorced or separated. The rates of widowhood and divorce were comparable to those for the total WA population (6% and 14%, respectively).

The proportion of the Ethiopia-born who had never married was unchanged between 2006 and 2011 (15%), but was smaller compared with the proportion of the total WA population (23%).

FAMILY COMPOSITION

In 2011, more than half (53%) of the Ethiopia-born lived in couple families with children and a smaller proportion (9%) lived in couple families without children. Both were consistent with the proportions in 2006 (55% and 10%, respectively). The comparative proportions of the WA population were 20 per cent and 45 per cent, respectively. Equal proportions of women and men lived in couple families with children (53%) and without children (9%).

In 2011, 18 per cent of the Ethiopia-born lived in one-parent families, which was almost unchanged since 2006 (15%) but larger compared with the proportion of all Western Australians (10%). A larger proportion of women (25%) than men (12%) lived in one-parent families.

Registered marital status (25+ years)	Ethiopia-born				WA population 2011		
	2011			2006	Male %	Female %	Total %
	Male %	Female %	Total %	Total %			
Married	64.0	64.8	64.4	62.0	59.0	57.1	58.1
Widowed	0.9	3.2	2.0	2.9	2.3	8.8	5.6
Divorced/separated	15.0	23.3	18.9	20.5	12.3	14.9	13.6
Never married	18.7	10.1	14.6	13.8	26.3	19.2	22.7
Family composition (all ages)							
Couple family with children	53.0	53.0	52.9	54.6	45.0	44.7	44.8
Couple family without children	9.2	9.3	9.2	9.7	19.4	20.3	19.8
One-parent family	11.5	25.3	18.2	15.0	7.8	12.0	9.9



LIVING ARRANGEMENTS

In 2011, almost half (46%) of the Ethiopia-born lived with a spouse or partner. This was similar to 2006 (49%) and to the proportion of all Western Australians (42%). Similar proportions of women (49%) and men (44%) were living with a spouse.

Between 2006 and 2011, there was little change in the proportions of the Ethiopia-born living with other family or non-family members (28% and 30%, respectively), living alone (18% and 16%, respectively) or not living at home (5% and 8%, respectively). The comparative figures for the total WA population were 35 per cent, 12 per cent and eight per cent, respectively. A larger proportion of Ethiopia-born men (12%) than women (5%) were not living at home.

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, half (50%) of Ethiopia-born men aged 65 years and over (three people) and all Ethiopia-born women in this age group (three people) required assistance. The WA figures for the same age group were 13 per cent and 18 per cent, respectively. For all other age groups the proportion was approximately two per cent.

In 2011, 10 per cent of the Ethiopia-born aged over 15 years was providing unpaid care and/or assistance to a family member, a rate comparable with the total WA population (9%).

More information

For more information and assistance, please contact:

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