



# Western Australian Community Profiles 2011 Census Germany-born

## Introduction

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

## Germany-born community in Western Australia

German migration to Western Australia (WA) began post-World War I, and then increased in the 1950s through the inclusion of German migrants in Australia's post-war resettlement program. Between 1949 and 1959, 3000 Germany-born people migrated to WA. German migration slowed between 1960 and 2000, but increased between 2001 and 2010 with the arrival of 2210 Germany-born people.

### GERMANY-BORN COMMUNITY AT A GLANCE

- There were 10,964 Germany-born in WA, 10% more than in 2006 (10,007).
- There were 63,020 Western Australians with German ancestry.
- Almost half (49%) arrived in WA before 1981.
- There were more women (5906) than men (5058) with a sex ratio of 86 men for every 100 women.
- More than one-third (38%) were aged between 45 and 64 years and the smallest group was children aged between 0 and 14 years (3%).
- The median age of the Germany-born was 57 years.
- Nearly half of the Germany-born (47%) spoke English well and spoke a language other than English (LOTE) at home.

- ▣ The main languages spoken by the Germany-born were German (42%) and Polish (2%).
- ▣ The majority (80%) lived in the Greater Perth Metropolitan Area.
- ▣ More than half (52%) of the Germany-born aged 15 years and over had completed Year 12 or an equivalent level of education, and almost two-thirds (59%) had a technical (39%) and/or a university qualification (20%).
- ▣ More than half (54%) were employed and 42% were not in the labour force.
- ▣ The Germany-born were mainly employed as professionals (26%), technicians and trade workers (16%), and clerical and administrative workers (14%).
- ▣ More than two-thirds (69%) were middle or high income earners. Forty-one per cent had weekly income of between \$300 and \$999, and 28% earned \$1000 or more. Less than one-tenth (7%) had no weekly income.
- ▣ More than two-thirds (67%) owned their home.
- ▣ More than half (57%) of the Germany-born aged 25 years and over were married, and more than one-third (37%) lived in couple families without children.
- ▣ Almost one-fifth (16%) of the Germany-born aged 65 years and over required assistance with everyday living.

## Migration, culture, ancestry, language and religion

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In 2011, there were 10,964 Germany-born Western Australians, representing 0.5% of the State's total population. This was an increase of 10% (from 10,007) since 2006. Almost two-thirds (64%) were Australian citizens.

### ARRIVAL

Almost half (49%) of the Germany-born arrived in WA before 1981 and one-fifth (21%) migrated between 2001 and 2010. This compares with the State's total overseas-born population, of which 25% and 28%, respectively, arrived during the same periods.

### AGE AND GENDER

The Germany-born population is composed of a larger proportion of older people and a smaller proportion of children compared with the total WA population. In 2011, almost one-third (29%) of the Germany-born were aged 65 years and over, a larger proportion than in 2001 (20%) and compared with the total WA population (12%).

A small proportion of the Germany-born were children aged between 0 and 14 years (3%). This had not changed since 2001, but was smaller compared with the proportion of the total WA population (20%).

Between 2001 and 2011, the proportion of the Germany-born aged between 45 and 64 years decreased (from 50% to 38%), but was larger compared with all Western Australians (25%). The proportion of Germany-born young people aged between 15 and 24 years was stable (5%), but was smaller compared with the total WA population (14%).

The median age of the Germany-born was 57 years, compared with 36 years for the total WA population



Age and gender profile	Germany-born					WA population 2011		
	2011			2006	2001	Male %	Female %	Total %
Age group	Male %	Female %	Total %	Total %	Total %	Male %	Female %	Total %
0–14 years	3.1	3.0	3.1	3.0	3.0	20.1	19.2	19.7
15–24 years	4.5	5.2	4.9	4.0	4.9	14.1	13.3	13.7
25–44 years	24.0	26.4	25.3	23.0	21.9	29.4	28.9	29.1
45–64 years	38.7	36.9	37.8	46.3	50.3	25.1	25.3	25.2
65+ years	29.7	28.4	29.0	23.8	19.8	11.3	13.2	12.3
All (number)	5058	5906	10,964	10,007	10,017	1,126,177	1,112,994	2,239,171
Sex ratio			85.6	86.7	91.2			101.2

In 2011, there were more Germany-born women than men. The sex ratio (number of men per 100 women) was estimated at 86. This was lower than in 2001 (91) and compared with the total WA population (101).

## ANCESTRY

People born in Germany, who have one or both parents born there, or who were born elsewhere but have German ancestors, may identify as having German ancestry. In 2011, more than three-quarters (77%) of Germany-born Western Australians identified as having

German ancestry, comparable to 2006 (76%). Germany-born Western Australians also reported that they had English (8%), Polish (8%) and Ukrainian (2%) ancestries. Most (98%) had one or both parents born overseas.

Small numbers and proportions of the WA population had German (63,020 or 3%), Polish (18,651 or 1%) and Ukrainian (2990 or 0.1%) ancestries. Similar proportions of the Australia-born identified with the same ancestries (3%, 1% and 0.1%, respectively).

Ancestry	Germany-born		WA population 2011	Australia-born 2011
	2011	2006		
Self-identified ancestry	Total %	Total %	Total %	Total %
German	77.0	75.9	2.8	3.2
English	8.4	7.7	37.9	41.3
Polish	7.7	8.8	0.8	0.7
Ukrainian	2.3	2.5	0.1	0.1
Australian	1.7	1.6	32.3	49.6
One or both parents born overseas	98.0	96.3	56.2	35.2
Both parents born in Australia	0.2	NA	43.8	64.8
One parent born in Australia	1.4	1.2	51.3	75.3

Language	Germany-born					WA population 2011		
	2011			2006	2001	Male %	Female %	Total %
English proficiency	Male %	Female %	Total %	Total %	Total %	Male %	Female %	Total %
Speaks English only	55.1	49.6	52.1	55.3	55.5	78.8	79.8	79.3
Speaks other language and English; very well or well	43.1	48.2	45.8	42.6	42.5	12.4	12.7	12.5
Speaks other language and English; not well or not at all	1.0	1.3	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.8	2.4	2.1
<b>Main language spoken at home other than English (top two responses)*</b>								
German	38.3	44.3	41.5	37.3	37.1	0.4	0.4	0.4
Polish	1.6	1.3	1.5	1.9	2.1	0.2	0.3	0.3

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

## LANGUAGES

In 2011, almost half (47%) of Germany-born Western Australians reported speaking a language other than English (LOTE) at home, mainly German (42%). Almost half (46%) of the Germany-born reported speaking a LOTE and speaking English well, which was relatively unchanged since 2001 (43%). A larger proportion of women (48%) than men (43%) reported a high level of English proficiency.

More than half (52%) of the Germany-born reported speaking English only at home, almost unchanged since 2001 (55%). The proportion of Germany-born people (1%) who reported speaking a LOTE and English not well or not at all had remained almost stable since 2001.

## RELIGION

Between 2006 and 2011, there was a decrease in the proportion of the Germany-born who identified with Christianity (from 71% to 65%) and an increase in the proportion that identified as having no religion (19% to 27%). A small proportion of the Germany-born also identified with non-Christian religions including Buddhism (0.9%) and Islam (0.6%), which remained almost stable for the same period. This general trend was similar to that for the total WA population for which identification with Christianity had decreased and having no religion had increased.



## Geographic distribution

Between 2001 and 2011, the settlement pattern for Germany-born Western Australians remained almost stable. In 2011, more than three-quarters (80%) lived in the Greater Perth Metropolitan Area and 20% lived in non-metropolitan areas. This settlement pattern was similar to the total WA population, of which 77% lived in the Greater Perth Metropolitan Area and 22% lived in non-metropolitan areas.

Within the Greater Perth Metropolitan Area, the Germany-born mainly lived in the Local Government Areas of Stirling (10%), Joondalup (9%) and Wanneroo (6%).

## Education

In 2011, more than half (52%) of the Germany-born aged 15 years and over had completed Year 12 or an equivalent level of education. This was a larger proportion than in 2001 (42%) but was comparable to the total WA population (48%).

Between 2001 and 2011, there were increases in the proportions of the Germany-born with qualifications at degree/tertiary level (from 14% to 20%), and at advanced diploma, diploma and certificate level (from 36% to 39%). A larger proportion of Germany-born people held post-school qualifications compared with the total WA population (58% and 45%, respectively). A larger proportion of Germany-born (48%) men than women (31%) had an advanced diploma, diploma or certificate level qualification.

A fraction (0.2%) of Germany-born Western Australians reported that they had not attended school, which was comparable to the total WA population (0.6%).

Educational attainment	Germany-born					WA population 2011		
	2011			2006	2001	Male %	Female %	Total %
Population (15+ years)	Male %	Female %	Total %	Total %	Total %	Male %	Female %	Total %
Degree/tertiary level	19.8	19.5	19.6	15.6	13.5	15.9	19.2	17.5
Advanced diploma/diploma/certificate	47.8	30.8	38.6	37.0	35.9	32.8	22.4	27.6
Completed Year 12/equivalent	51.6	52.6	52.2	46.2	41.5	46.2	49.4	47.8
Did not attend school	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	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, more than half (56%) of Germany-born Western Australians were in the labour force. This had remained stable since 2006, but was smaller compared with the proportion of the total WA population (64%).

The proportions of the Germany-born employed (54%), unemployed (2%) and not in the labour force (42%), were almost unchanged since 2001. The proportions of Germany-born employed and not in the labour force were smaller compared with the State's total population (61% and 29%, respectively), while the rate of unemployment was comparable (3%).

A larger proportion of Germany-born men (60%) were employed than women (50%). A larger proportion of women (46%) were not in the labour force than men (36%). These gender-based trends reflect those for the total Western Australian population, of which 67% of men and 55% 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 Germany-born were employed mainly as professionals (26%), technicians and trade workers (16%), clerical and administrative workers (14%) and managers (14%). These occupation groups and rates were comparable to those for the total WA population, except that the proportion of Germany-born professionals was larger (26% and 20%, respectively).

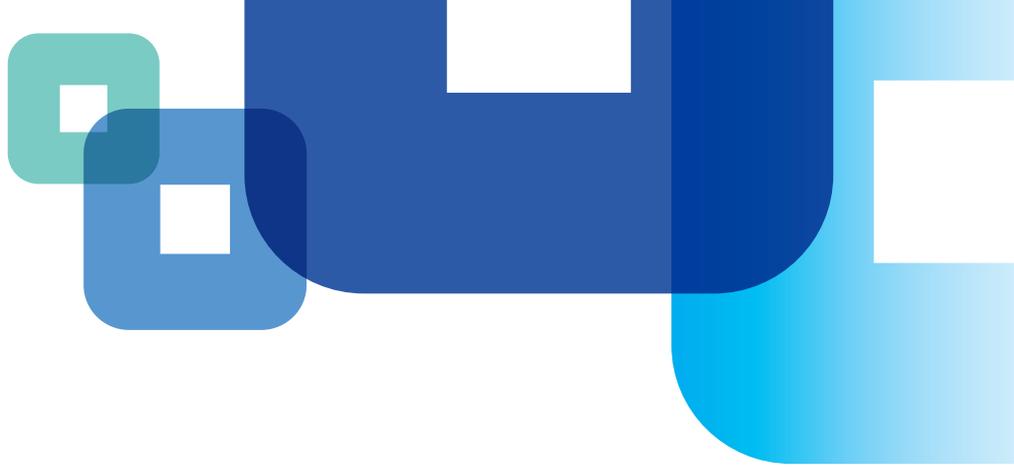
Germany-born men were mainly employed as professionals (25%), technicians and trade workers (25%) and managers (17%). Germany-born women were mainly employed as professionals (26%), clerical and administrative workers (23%), and community and personal service workers (15%).

### BUSINESS OWNERSHIP

In 2011, 18% of the Germany-born were small or medium business owners. This was a smaller proportion than in 2006 (22%), but was comparable to the total WA population (15%).

Half (50%) of the businesses owned by the Germany-born were self-managed, almost half (46%) employed

Labour force	Germany-born					WA population 2011		
	2011			2006	2001	Male %	Female %	Total %
Population (15+ years)	Male %	Female %	Total %	Total %	Total %	Male %	Female %	Total %
Employed	59.9	49.6	54.3	53.8	52.7	66.7	55.3	61.0
Unemployed	2.3	1.8	2.0	1.9	4.1	3.2	2.9	3.0
Not in the labour force	35.9	46.4	41.6	42.2	41.5	22.7	36.1	29.4



Weekly income	Germany-born					WA population 2011		
	2011			2006*	2001**	Male %	Female %	Total %
Population (15+ years)	Male %	Female %	Total %	Total %	Total %	Male %	Female %	Total %
None	4.2	9.1	6.8	6.0	6.3	5.6	9.8	7.7
< \$300	13.6	19.8	17.5	21.8	36.9	11.7	19.8	15.7
\$300–\$999	36.4	47.2	42.2	47.0	41.6	29.3	41.9	35.6
\$1000 or more	41.6	18.4	29.1	20.0	10.8	43.0	20.2	31.6

Note: \*Unlike 2011 and 2001, the threshold for the 2006 Census was less than \$250. The next income group was \$250–\$999.

\*\*For the 2001 Census 'no income' also included negative income.

between one and 19 people, and 3% employed 20 or more people. A larger proportion of Germany-born men (23%) than women (14%) were business owners.

### INCOME

More than one-third (42%) of the Germany-born were middle income earners with a weekly income of between \$300 and \$999. This was a smaller proportion than in 2006 (46%), but larger compared with all Western Australians (36%).

Between 2001 and 2011, the proportion of Germany-born Western Australians earning a high income of \$1000 or more per week more than doubled (from 11% to 29%) and was comparable to the total WA population (32%). The proportion of people earning a low income of less than \$300 per week halved (from 37% to 18%) during the same period, and was also comparable to the proportion of all Western Australians (16%).

A small proportion (7%) of the Germany-born was without a weekly income, almost unchanged since 2001 and comparable to the total WA population (8%).

Among the Germany-born, a larger proportion of women were middle (46%) and low (20%) income earners than men (35% and 14%, respectively). The proportion of men (40%) earning a high income was double that of women (18%).

### HOUSING

In 2011, more than two-thirds (67%) of Germany-born people owned their home, a slightly smaller proportion than in 2006 (72%), but comparable to the proportion of all Western Australians (63%).

Among the Germany-born, 40% lived in a home they fully owned and 28% lived in a home they were purchasing. The comparative figures for the total WA population were 24% and 39%, respectively.

In 2011, almost one-quarter (23%) of Germany-born Western Australians were living in rental accommodation, comparable to the proportion of the total WA population (26%).

## Family

### MARITAL STATUS

In 2011, more than half (57%) of the Germany-born aged 25 years and over were married—a similar proportion to 2006 (59%) and comparable to the total WA population (58%). A larger proportion of Germany-born men (61%) than women (51%) were married.

The proportions of the Germany-born widowed (9%), or divorced or separated (18%) were almost unchanged since 2006 and comparable to the proportions of all Western Australians (6% and 14%, respectively). A larger proportion of Germany-born women were widowed than men (14% and 4%, respectively).

The proportion of Germany-born people who were never married was larger in 2011 (17%) than in 2006 (13%) but smaller compared with the total Western Australian population (23%).

### FAMILY COMPOSITION

In 2011, one-quarter (26%) of Germany-born Western Australians lived in couple families with children, a larger proportion than in 2006 (20%), but smaller compared with the total WA population (45%).

A larger proportion (38%) of the Germany-born lived in couple families without children. This was comparable to 2006 (37%), but larger compared with the proportion of all Western Australians (20%).

In 2011, 6% of the Germany-born lived in one-parent families, similar to 2006 (7%) and comparable to the proportion of the total WA population (10%).

Registered marital status (25+ years)	Germany-born				WA population 2011		
	2011			2006	Male %	Female %	Total %
	Male %	Female %	Total %	Total %			
Married	60.9	51.3	56.7	58.9	59.0	57.1	58.1
Widowed	3.8	13.5	9.0	9.5	2.3	8.8	5.6
Divorced/separated	17.0	18.4	17.8	18.5	12.3	14.9	13.6
Never married	18.3	15.1	16.6	13.0	26.3	19.2	22.7
<b>Family composition (all ages)</b>							
Couple family with children	26.7	25.0	25.8	27.1	45.0	44.7	44.8
Couple family without children	38.5	36.6	37.5	36.9	19.4	20.3	19.8
One-parent family	4.3	7.4	5.9	6.5	7.8	12.0	9.9



## LIVING ARRANGEMENTS

In 2011, more than half (59%) of the Germany-born were living with a spouse or partner. This was comparable to 2006 (60%) but larger compared with the proportion of the total WA population (42%).

Smaller proportions of the Germany-born were living with other family or non-family members (8%) or not living at home (9%). A comparable proportion of the total WA population was not living at home (8%) while a larger proportion was living with other family or non-family members (34%).

The proportion (21%) of the Germany-born living alone was larger than the proportion of all Western Australians (12%). A larger proportion of Germany-born women (24%) than men (17%) 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-fifth (19%) of Germany-born women and 12% of men aged 65 years and over required such assistance. These figures were comparable to those for all Western Australian women and men of the same age (18% and 13%, respectively). Around 3% of all other Germany-born people required assistance.

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

## More information

For more information and assistance, please contact:

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