



Western Australian Community Profiles 2011 Census Greece-born

Introduction

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

Greece-born community in Western Australia

Most of the Greece-born migrated to Western Australia (WA) in the 1950s and 1960s, leaving conditions of poverty and civil war. The Australia-Greece Assisted Passage Agreement (1952) enabled this migration. The majority of the Greece-born (1798) arrived in WA between 1950 and 1970. The Greece-born have declined in numbers due to slowing migration and ageing.

GREECE-BORN COMMUNITY AT A GLANCE

- There were 2649 Greece-born in WA, 13% less than in 2006 (3027).
- There were 13,822 Western Australians with Greek ancestry.
- The majority (85%) arrived in WA before 1981.
- Most (94%) were Australian citizens.
- There were slightly more women (1330) than men (1319) with a sex ratio of 99 men for every 100 women.
- Almost two-thirds (62%) of the Greece-born were older people aged over 65 years and the smallest group was young people aged between 15 and 24 years (less than one per cent).
- The median age for the Greece-born was 69 years.
- Almost two-thirds (65%) spoke English well and spoke a language other than English (LOTE) at home.

- ▣ The main languages spoken by the Greece-born were Greek (64%) and Macedonian (19%).
- ▣ Most (95%) lived in the Greater Perth Metropolitan Area.
- ▣ Almost one-quarter (22%) of the Greece-born aged 15 years and over had completed Year 12 or an equivalent level of education, and a similar proportion (23%) had a technical (17%) or university qualification (6%).
- ▣ Almost one-third (30%) were employed and two-thirds (67%) were not in the labour force.
- ▣ The Greece-born were employed mainly as managers (16%), professionals (16%), and technicians and trades workers (16%).
- ▣ More than one-third (42%) were middle income earners with a weekly income between \$300 and \$999. Five per cent had no weekly income.
- ▣ More than three-quarters (84%) owned their home.
- ▣ More than two-thirds (67%) of the Greece-born aged over 25 years were married and 43% lived in a couple family without children.
- ▣ One-quarter (23%) of the Greece-born aged over 65 years required assistance with everyday living.

Migration, culture, ancestry, language and religion

In 2011, there were 2649 Greece-born Western Australians, representing 0.1% of the State's total population. This group decreased by 13% (from 3027) between 2006 and 2011. Most (94%) were Australian citizens.

ARRIVAL

The majority (85%) of the Greece-born population arrived in WA before 1981. This compares with the State's total overseas-born population, of which one-quarter (25%) arrived during the same period.

AGE AND GENDER

The Greece-born population is composed of a larger proportion of older people and smaller proportions of children and young people compared with the total WA population. In 2011, almost two-thirds (62%) of the Greece-born were aged over 65 years, a larger proportion than in 2001 (43%) and compared with the total WA population (12%).

By contrast, children aged between 0 and 14 years, and young people aged between 15 and 24 years accounted for two per cent of the Greece-born population, combined. Both were unchanged since 2001 (1%, respectively) and were smaller compared with the total WA population (20% and 14%, respectively).

There were decreases in the proportions of the Greece-born aged between 25 and 44 years (from 13% to 6%) and between 45 and 64 years (from 43% to 30%) for the same period.

The median age for the Greece-born was 69 years, compared with 36 years for the total WA population. In 2011, there were nine centenarian Greece-born women.



Age and gender profile	Greece-born					WA population 2011		
	2011			2006	2001	Male %	Female %	Total %
Age group	Male %	Female %	Total %	Total %	Total %	Male %	Female %	Total %
0-14 years	0.9	1.4	1.2	1.3	0.9	20.1	19.2	19.7
15-24 years	0.6	1.1	0.8	2.3	1.4	14.1	13.3	13.7
25-44 years	5.7	5.8	5.7	12.1	12.8	29.4	28.9	29.1
45-64 years	33.5	27.2	30.4	36.3	42.7	25.1	25.3	25.2
65+ years	59.3	64.5	61.9	48.1	42.1	11.3	13.2	12.3
All (number)	1319	1330	2649	3027	3164	1,126,177	1,112,994	2,239,171
Sex ratio			99.2	98.5	103.6			101.2

In 2011, there were almost equal numbers of Greece-born women and men. The sex ratio (number of men per 100 women) was approximately 99. This was similar to 2006 (99) and 2001 (104), and to the total WA population (101).

ANCESTRY

People born in Greece, who have one or both parents born there, or who were born elsewhere but have Greek ancestors may identify that they have Greek ancestry. In 2011, almost three-quarters (73%) of the

Greece-born identified having Greek ancestry, a larger proportion than in 2006 (69%).

Greece-born Western Australians also reported that they had Macedonian (23%), English (2%) and Australian (1%) ancestry. Almost all (99%) had one or both parents born overseas.

Small numbers and proportions of the WA population (13,822 or 0.6%) and the Australia-born (10,356 or 0.7%) identified that they had Greek ancestry.

Ancestry	Greece-born			Australia-born 2011
	2011	2006	2011	Total %
Self-identified ancestry	Total %	Total %	Total %	Total %
Greek	73.3	69.2	0.6	0.7
Macedonian	23.2	15.7	0.4	0.4
English	1.5	2.8	37.9	41.3
Australian	1.3	2.4	49.6	51.3
Irish	0.2	0.9	8.4	9.7
One or both parents born overseas	99.4	99.4	56.2	35.2
Both parents born in Australia	0.2	0	43.8	64.8
One parent born in Australia	0.2	0.6	51.3	75.3

Language	Greece-born					WA population 2011		
	2011			2006	2001	Male %	Female %	Total %
English proficiency	Male %	Female %	Total %	Total %	Total %	Male %	Female %	Total %
English only	17.4	12.5	15.0	19.3	14.1	78.8	79.8	79.3
Other language and English; very well or well	68.3	61.4	64.8	60.8	63.1	12.4	12.7	12.5
Other language and English; not well or not at all	13.1	24.7	18.9	18.7	20.9	1.8	2.4	2.1
Main language spoken at home other than English (top two responses)*								
Greek	61.9	65.1	63.5	58.4	64.0	0.2	0.2	0.2
Macedonian	18.3	20.0	19.1	15.4	18.2	0.3	0.3	0.3

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

LANGUAGES

In 2011, the majority (84%) of Greece-born Western Australians reported speaking a language other than English (LOTE) at home, mainly Greek (64%) and Macedonian (19%).

Almost two-thirds (65%) of Greece-born Western Australians reported speaking a LOTE and speaking English well or very well. This proportion was comparable to 2001 (63%).

More than one-tenth (15%) of Greece-born people reported speaking only English at home; a similar proportion to 2001 (13%).

The proportion of Greece-born people (19%) who reported speaking a LOTE and English not well or not at all was unchanged since 2006 (19%). A larger proportion of women (25%) than men (13%) reported low levels of English proficiency.

RELIGION

In 2011, the majority (95%) of Greece-born Western Australians reported that they identified with Christianity and small proportions identified as having no religion (3%) or with Islam (0.2%). This was comparable to 2006 and 2001. This trend differs from the total WA population for which identification with Christianity had decreased and identification with non-Christian religions or as having no religion had increased.



Geographic distribution

Between 2001 and 2011, the settlement pattern for Greece-born Western Australians was unchanged. In 2011, 95% lived in the Greater Perth Metropolitan Area and the remainder lived in non-metropolitan areas (5%). Compared with the Greece-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 Greece-born lived mainly in the Local Government Areas of Stirling (39%), Vincent (9%) and Bayswater (8%).

Education

In 2011, almost one-quarter (22%) of the Greece-born aged 15 years and over had completed Year 12 or an equivalent level of education. This was almost unchanged since 2001 (19%), but less than half the proportion of the total WA population (48%). A larger proportion of Greece-born men (28%) had completed this level of education than women (17%).

Between 2001 and 2011 there was little change in the proportion of Greece-born people with qualifications at degree/tertiary level (from 5% to 6%) or at advanced diploma, diploma and certificate level (from 15% to 17%). The proportion of the Greece-born with post-school qualifications (23%) was half the proportion of the total WA population (45%). A larger proportion of Greece-born men (33%) had a post-school qualification than women (13%).

A small proportion (8%) of Greece-born Western Australians reported that they had not attended school; this was larger than the proportion of the total WA population (0.6%). A larger proportion of Greece-born women (10%) than men (7%) had not attended school.

Educational attainment	Greece-born					WA population 2011		
	2011			2006	2001	Male %	Female %	Total %
Population (15+ years)	Male %	Female %	Total %	Total %	Total %	Male %	Female %	Total %
Degree/tertiary level	7.6	4.0	5.8	6.1	4.7	15.9	19.2	17.5
Advanced diploma/diploma/certificate	25.0	9.4	17.2	16.9	14.9	32.8	22.4	27.6
Completed Year 12/equivalent	27.5	16.8	22.2	24.3	18.9	46.2	49.4	47.8
Did not attend school	7.2	9.6	8.4	9.7	11.8	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 one-third (30%) of Greece-born Western Australians were in the labour force, a smaller proportion than in 2001 (36%) and compared with the total WA population (64%). Between 2006 and 2011, there was a decrease in the proportion of the Greece-born employed (from 34% to 29%) and an increase in the proportion not in the labour force (from 61% to 67%); the rate of unemployment remained stable at around one per cent. In 2011, the figures for the total Western Australian population were 61%, 29% and 3%, respectively.

The proportion of Greece-born men employed (37%) was almost double the proportion of women (21%). A larger proportion of women (76%) were not in the labour force than men (58%). These gender-based trends reflect those for the total Western Australian population, although the proportion of Western Australian women in the labour force (58%) was larger and not in the labour force smaller (36%) compared with the Greece-born.

OCCUPATION

In 2011, the Greece-born were mainly employed as managers, professionals and technicians, and trade workers (16% each), compared with 12%, 20% and 17% respectively, for the total WA population.

Greece-born men were mainly employed as technicians and trade workers (22%), managers (17%), professionals (16%) and labourers (15%).¹ Greece-born women were mainly employed as clerical and administration workers (22%), labourers (16%), and professionals and sales workers (14% each).

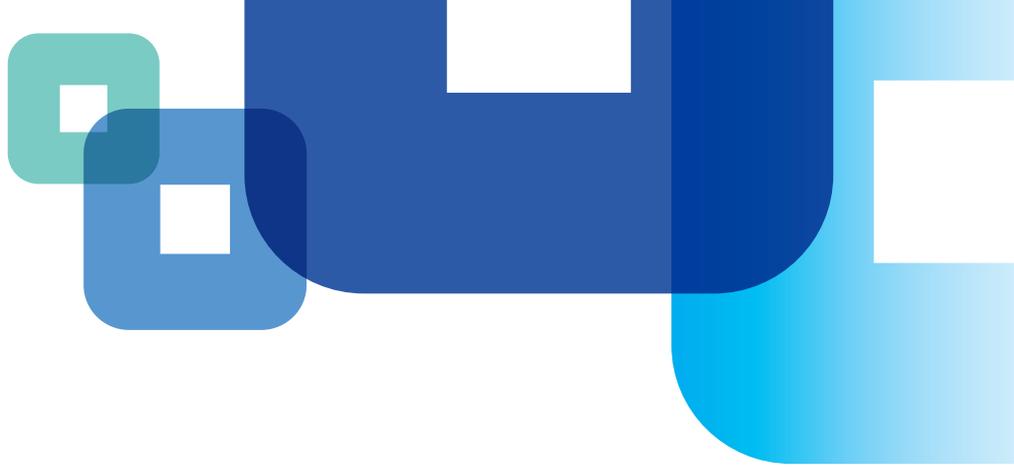
BUSINESS OWNERSHIP

In 2011, almost one-third (30%) of Greece-born Western Australians were small or medium business owners; twice the proportion of the total WA population (15%).

Half (51%) of the businesses owned by the Greece-born were self-managed, almost half (46%) employed between one and 19 people, and 3% employed 20 or more people. The proportion of Greece-born men (37%) working in their own business was double that of women (18%).

Labour force	Greece-born					WA population 2011		
	2011			2006	2001	Male %	Female %	Total %
Population (15+ years)	Male %	Female %	Total %	Total %	Total %	Male %	Female %	Total %
Employed	36.8	20.7	28.7	33.8	32.8	66.7	55.3	61.0
Unemployed	1.7	0.4	1.0	1.4	2.7	3.2	2.9	3.0
Not in the labour force	57.9	75.9	66.9	60.9	61.7	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 miscellaneous category such as handypersons, recycling and rubbish collectors and vending machine attendants.



Weekly income	Greece-born					WA population 2011		
	2011			2006*	2001**	Male %	Female %	Total %
Population (15+ years)	Male %	Female %	Total %	Total %	Total %	Male %	Female %	Total %
None	3.2	6.5	4.9	4.8	4.3	5.6	9.8	7.7
< \$300	30.3	30.1	30.2	35.3	53.9	11.7	19.8	15.7
\$300–\$999	36.3	47.9	42.1	41.1	29.8	29.3	41.9	35.6
\$1000 or more	23.7	8.1	15.9	12.2	6.4	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 (42%) of the Greece-born were middle income earners with a weekly income between \$300 and \$999. This was a larger proportion than in 2001 (30%) but comparable to all Western Australians (36%).

Between 2001 and 2011, the proportion of the Greece-born earning \$1000 or more per week increased (from 6% to 16%), but was half the proportion of all Western Australians (32%). The proportion of the Greece-born earning less than \$300 per week almost halved (54% to 30%), but was larger compared with the proportion of the total WA population (16%).

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

Among the Greece-born, equal proportions of men (30%) and women (30%) were low income earners. Men (24%) were a larger proportion of high income earners than women (8%), while the proportion of women (48%) who were middle income earners was larger than men (36%).

HOUSING

In 2011, the majority (84%) of the Greece-born owned their home compared with almost two-thirds (63%) of all Western Australians.

More than two-thirds of the Greece-born (68%) lived in a home they fully owned, compared with a quarter (24%) of the total WA population. The proportion of people living in a home they were purchasing (16%) was less than half the proportion for the total WA population (39%).

A small proportion of Greece-born Western Australians were living in rental accommodation (9%), one-third the proportion of the total WA population (27%).

Family

MARITAL STATUS

In 2011, two-thirds (67%) of the Greece-born aged over 25 years were married; similar to 2006 (69%) but larger compared with the proportion of the total WA population (58%). More Greece-born men (76%) were married than women (59%).

The proportion of Greece-born widows (18%) was almost unchanged since 2006 (16%), but was three times larger compared with the total WA population (6%). The proportion of the Greece-born who were divorced or separated (10%) was unchanged since 2006 but lower compared with the total WA population (14%).

The proportion of the Greece-born who never married was stable (5%) but was almost five times smaller compared with the total WA population (23%).

FAMILY COMPOSITION

In 2011, one quarter (26%) of Greece-born Western Australians lived in couple families with children, smaller than the proportion (43%) of people living in couple families without children. The proportion of couple families with children had decreased since 2006 (from 32%), while the proportion of couple families without children increased (from 38%).

Of the total Western Australian population, almost half (45%) lived in couple families with children, which was more than double the proportion (20%) of people living in couple families without children.

In 2011, a small proportion (6%) of the Greece-born lived in one-parent families, stable since 2006 (7%) and comparable to the total WA population (10%).

Registered marital status (25+ years)	Greece-born				WA population 2011		
	2011			2006	Male %	Female %	Total %
	Male %	Female %	Total %	Total %	Male %	Female %	Total %
Married	75.8	58.6	67.2	69.1	59.0	57.1	58.1
Widowed	5.9	30.4	18.1	15.5	2.3	8.8	5.6
Divorced/separated	10.4	9.7	10.1	10.2	12.3	14.9	13.6
Never married	7.7	1.5	4.6	5.2	26.3	19.2	22.7
Family composition (all ages)							
Couple family with children	29.0	22.5	25.7	31.6	45.0	44.7	44.8
Couple family without children	47.7	38.8	43.2	38.4	19.4	20.3	19.8
One-parent family	3.0	9.8	6.4	7.2	7.8	12.0	9.9



LIVING ARRANGEMENTS

In 2011, two-thirds (66%) of the Greece-born lived with a spouse or partner. This was unchanged since 2006 but larger compared with the total WA population (42%). A larger proportion of Greece-born men (75%) than women (57%) were living with a spouse. Small proportions of the Greece-born were living with other family or non-family members (6%), or not living at home (5%). This was similar to 2006 (7% and 5%, respectively). A comparatively larger proportion (38%) of all Western Australians lived with other family or non-family members.

The proportion of the Greece-born who lived alone was unchanged from 2006 (20%), but higher compared with the total WA population (22% and 12%, respectively). A larger proportion of Greece-born women (29%) were living alone than men (15%).

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 (23%) of the Greece-born aged over 65 years and 4% aged between 15 and 64 years, required such assistance. This compared with 16% and 2%, respectively for the total WA population. A larger proportion of older Greece-born women required assistance than men (27% and 18%, respectively).

A small proportion (3%) of the Greece-born aged over 15 years was providing unpaid care and/or assistance to a family member, a smaller proportion compared with the total WA population (9%).

More information

For more information and assistance, please contact:

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