



Western Australian Community Profiles 2011 Census Iran-born

Introduction

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

Iran-born community in Western Australia

The Iran-born community can be classified as one that is new and emerging. New and emerging communities are those with relatively small populations, of which the majority of members arrived after 1991. Although a small community established itself in Western Australia (WA) before 1990, the majority of the Iran-born community has arrived in the past 20 years.

IRAN-BORN COMMUNITY AT A GLANCE

- There were 3724 Iran-born people in WA, 70% more than in 2006 (2187).
- There were 4222 Western Australians with Iranian ancestry.
- More than half (56%) arrived in WA between 2001 and 2010.
- There were more men (2081) than women (1643), with a sex ratio of 127 men per 100 women.
- Almost half (49%) of the Iran-born were aged between 25 and 44 years. The smallest proportions were people aged 65 years and over (7%) and between 0 and 14 years (8%).
- The median age of the Iran-born was 35 years.
- Almost three-quarters (71%) spoke English well and spoke a language other than English (LOTE) at home.
- The main languages spoken by the Iran-born were Persian (77%) and Arabic (3%).

- ▣ Most (91%) lived in the Greater Perth Metropolitan Area.
- ▣ Almost three-quarters (73%) of the Iran-born aged 15 years and over had completed Year 12 or an equivalent level of education. More than half (56%) had a university (40%) or technical qualification (16%).
- ▣ Half were employed (51%) and more than one-third (42%) were not in the labour force.
- ▣ The Iran-born were mainly employed as professionals (38%), technicians and trade workers (15%), and managers (8%).
- ▣ More than half (55%) were middle or high income earners with a weekly income between \$300 and \$999 (29%), or \$1000 or more per week (26%). Eleven per cent had no weekly income.
- ▣ Almost half (46%) owned their home.
- ▣ More than two-thirds (68%) of people aged 25 years and over were married, and almost half (49%) lived in couple families with children.
- ▣ More than one-quarter (29%) of the Iran-born aged over 65 years required assistance with everyday living.

Migration, culture, ancestry, language and religion

In 2011, there were 3724 Iran-born born Western Australians, representing 0.2% of the State's total population. This was an increase of 70% (from 2187) since 2006. More than half (58%) were Australian citizens.

ARRIVAL

More than half (54%) of the Iran-born arrived in WA between 2001 and 2010. This compares with the State's total overseas-born population, of which more than one-quarter (28%) arrived during the same period.

AGE AND GENDER

The Iran-born population is composed of a larger proportion of adults and a smaller proportion of older people than the total WA population. In 2011, half (50%) were aged between 25 and 44 years, a larger proportion than in 2006 (37%) and compared with the total WA population (29%). One-quarter (25%) of the Iran-born were aged between 45 and 64 years, comparable to 2006 (29%) and to the total WA population (25%).

The proportions of the Iran-born aged between 0 and 14 years (8%) and 65 years and over (7%) were smaller compared with all Western Australians (20% and 12%, respectively).

Between 2006 and 2011, there was a slight decrease in the proportion of people aged between 15 and 24 years (from 15% to 12%), but this was comparable to the proportion of all Western Australians (14%) in this age group.

The median age of the Iran-born was 35 years, compared with 36 years for the total WA population.



Age and gender profile	Iran-born					WA population 2011		
	2011			2006	2001	Male %	Female %	Total %
Age group	Male %	Female %	Total %	Total %	Total %	Male %	Female %	Total %
0–14 years	7.3	8.3	7.8	9.5	8.9	20.1	19.2	19.7
15–24 years	12.2	11.0	11.6	15.0	16.7	14.1	13.3	13.7
25–44 years	49.8	47.7	48.9	37.3	43.6	29.4	28.9	29.1
45–64 years	24.2	25.1	24.6	29.2	24.0	25.1	25.3	25.2
65+ years	6.5	7.9	7.1	9.1	6.7	11.3	13.2	12.3
All (number)	2081	1643	3724	2187	1957	1,126,177	1,112,994	2,239,171
Sex ratio			126.7	113.6	135.7			101.2

In 2011, there were more Iran-born men than women. The sex ratio (number of men per 100 women) was estimated at 127, more than in 2006 (114), but less than in 2001 (136) and higher compared with the total WA population (101).

ANCESTRY

People born in Iran, with one or both parents born there, or who were born elsewhere but have Iranian ancestors, may identify that they have Iranian ancestry.

In 2011, 87% of the Iran-born identified as having Iranian ancestry. Iran-born Western Australians also reported that they had Afghan (3%), Kurdish (3%) or Iraqi ancestries (2%). All (100%) had one or both parents born overseas.

Small numbers of Western Australians (4222) and the Australia-born population (755) identified as having Iranian ancestry.

Ancestry Self-identified ancestry	Iran-born		WA population 2011	Australia-born 2011
	2011	2006		
	Total %	Total %	Total %	Total %
Iranian	87.4	82.7	0.2	0.0*
Afghan	3.0	2.0	0.1	0.0*
Kurdish	2.5	2.6	0.0*	0.0*
Iraqi	1.7	2.6	0.1	0.0*
Australian	1.4	0.9	32.3	49.6
One or both parents born overseas	100	99.7	56.2	14.4
Both parents born in Australia	0.0	NA	43.8	64.8
One parent born in Australia	0.3	0.2	51.3	74.2

* The proportions are listed as zero because of the small numbers identifying with these ancestries. In 2011, small numbers of the Australia-born identified as having Kurdish (181), Iraqi (566) and Afghan (667) ancestries. There were 664 Western Australians who identified with Afghan and Kurdish ancestry.

Language	Iran-born					WA population 2011		
	2011			2006	2001	Male %	Female %	Total %
English proficiency	Male %	Female %	Total %	Total %	Total %	Male %	Female %	Total %
English only	7.3	5.1	6.3	8.2	7.3	78.8	79.8	79.3
Other language and English; very well or well	68.6	73.2	70.7	70.6	60.6	12.4	12.7	12.5
Other language and English; not well or not at all	11.6	19.0	14.8	19.6	17.6	1.8	2.4	2.1
Main language spoken at home other than English (top two responses)*								
Persian (excluding Dari)	72.0	83.0	77.1	79.0	69.4	0.2	0.2	0.2
Arabic	2.5	2.9	2.7	4.3	2.6	0.6	0.5	0.5

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

LANGUAGES

In 2011, the majority (86%) of Iran-born Western Australians reported speaking a language other than English (LOTE) at home, mainly Persian (77%) and Arabic (3%). The proportion of the Iran-born who spoke Persian at home had increased (from 69%) since 2001.

In 2011, almost three-quarters (71%) of Iran-born Western Australians reported speaking a LOTE and speaking English very well or well, which was a larger proportion than in 2001 (61%).

A small proportion (6%) of the Iran-born reported speaking only English at home, similar to 2001 (7%). The proportion of the Iran-born who reported speaking a LOTE and English not well or not at all had decreased since 2006 (from 20% to 15%). A larger proportion of women (19%) than men (12%) reported low levels of English proficiency.

RELIGION

Between 2001 and 2011, religious identification for the Iran-born changed. There were increases in the proportions of people who identified with Islam (from 22% to 35%) and as having no religion (from 7% to 17%), and a decrease in the proportion who identified as Baha'i (from 47% to 30%). This trend was similar to the total WA population for which identification with non-Christian religions, or not identifying with any religion, had increased.



Geographic distribution

Between 2001 and 2011, there was a change in the settlement pattern for Iran-born Western Australians. In 2001, 83% of the Iran-born lived in the Greater Perth Metropolitan Area and 17% lived in non-metropolitan areas. By 2011, the proportion living within the Greater Perth Metropolitan Area had increased to 91% and those living in non-metropolitan areas decreased to 9%. Compared with the Iran-born, a smaller proportion of the total WA population (77%) lived in the Greater Perth Metropolitan Area and a larger proportion (22%) lived in non-metropolitan areas.

In 2011, the Iran-born lived mainly in the Local Government Areas of Stirling (18%), Melville (10%) and Canning (8%).

Education

In 2011, almost three-quarters (73%) of the Iran-born aged 15 years and over had completed Year 12 or an equivalent level of education. This was a larger proportion than in 2001 (63%), and compared with the proportion of the total WA population (48%). A larger proportion of Iran-born women (78%) than men (69%) had completed this level of education.

Between 2001 and 2011, the proportions of the Iran-born with qualifications at degree/tertiary level almost doubled (from 22% to 40%), while the proportion with advanced diploma, diploma and certificate level qualifications remained relatively unchanged (16%). A larger proportion of the Iran-born (57%) had post-school qualifications compared with the total WA population (45%). A slightly larger proportion of Iran-born women (60%) had a post-school qualification than men (55%).

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

Educational attainment	Iran-born					WA population 2011		
	2011			2006	2001	Male %	Female %	Total %
Population (15+ years)	Male %	Female %	Total %	Total %	Total %	Male %	Female %	Total %
Degree/tertiary level	38.3	43.1	40.4	32.2	22.1	15.9	19.2	17.5
Advanced diploma/diploma/certificate	16.3	16.4	16.3	18.3	15.3	32.8	22.4	27.6
Completed Year 12/equivalent	69.1	78.0	73.0	72.4	63.2	46.2	49.4	47.8
Did not attend school	1.0	2.2	1.5	2.0	1.7	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, that is employed or unemployed and able to work. In 2011, more than half (57%) of Iran-born Western Australians were in the labour force, a larger proportion than in 2001 (47%) but smaller compared with the WA population (64%).

In 2011, half (51%) of the Iran-born were employed, a larger proportion than in 2001 (39%) but smaller compared with the total WA population (61%). By contrast there was a decrease in the proportion of the Iran-born not in the labour force (from 52% to 42%) but this remained larger compared with the total WA population (29%). The proportion of the Iran-born unemployed was relatively unchanged (around 6%) but was slightly larger compared with the total WA population (3%).

A larger proportion of men (57%) were employed than women (43%), while a larger proportion of women (49%) than men (36%) were not in the labour force. These gender-based trends reflected those for the total Western Australian population, of which a larger proportion of men (67%) were employed than women (55%), and a larger proportion of women (36%) were not in the labour force than men (23%).

OCCUPATION

In 2011, the Iran-born were mainly employed as professionals (38%), technicians and trade workers (15%), and managers (9%). The proportion of professionals was larger compared with the WA population (12%); the proportions of technicians and trade workers (17%) and managers (12%) were comparable to the total WA population.

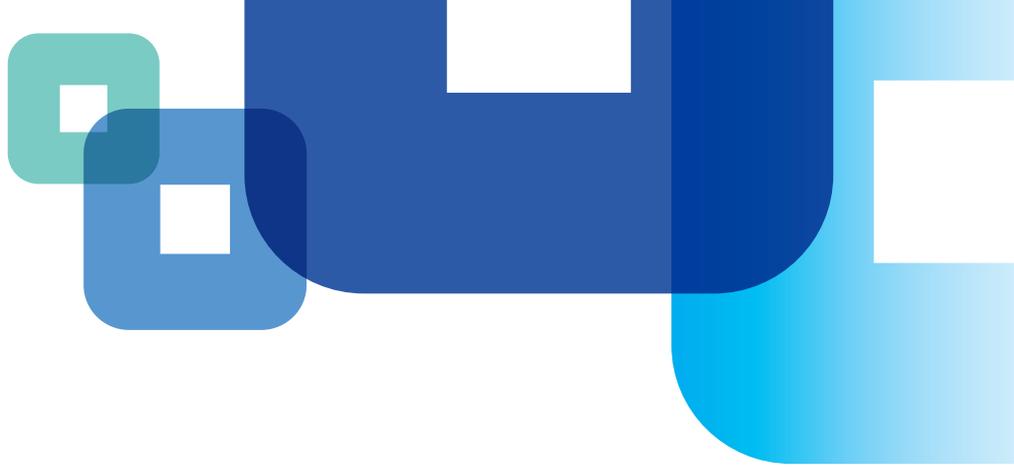
Iran-born men were mainly employed as professionals (37%), technicians and trade workers (19%), and managers (10%). Iran-born women were mainly employed as professionals (40%), clerical and administrative workers (16%), and technicians and trade workers (8%).

BUSINESS OWNERSHIP

In 2011, 21% of Iran-born Western Australians were small or medium business owners, a larger proportion compared with the total WA population (15%).

Almost half (48%) of businesses owned by the Iran-born were self-managed. A similar proportion (47%) employed between one and 19 people and the remainder (4%) employed 20 or more people. The proportion of Iran-born men (26%) working in their own business was more than double that of women (11%).

Labour force	Iran-born					WA population 2011		
	2011			2006	2001	Male %	Female %	Total %
Population (15+ years)	Male %	Female %	Total %	Total %	Total %	Male %	Female %	Total %
Employed	57.3	43.4	51.2	52.3	38.8	66.7	55.3	61.0
Unemployed	5.8	6.0	5.9	5.8	8.4	3.2	2.9	3.0
Not in the labour force	35.8	49.3	41.7	40.2	52.4	22.7	36.1	29.4



Weekly income	Iran-born					WA population 2011		
	2011			2006*	2001**	Male %	Female %	Total %
Population (15+ years)	Male %	Female %	Total %	Total %	Total %	Male %	Female %	Total %
None	6.4	16.8	10.9	8.9	6.0	5.6	9.8	7.7
< \$300	15.9	28.3	21.3	31.8	46.4	11.7	19.8	15.7
\$300–\$999	27.3	30.1	28.5	38.5	25.1	29.3	41.9	35.6
\$1000 or more	33.5	17.3	26.4	14.7	7.8	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

In 2011, almost one-third (29%) of the Iran-born were middle income earners with a weekly income of between \$300 and \$999. This was a smaller proportion than in 2001 (39%) and compared with all Western Australians (37%).

A comparable proportion (26%) were high income earners with an average weekly income of more than \$1000. This was three times larger than in 2001 (8%), but smaller compared with the total WA population (32%).

The proportion of Iran-born people earning less than \$300 per week halved between 2001 (46%) and 2011 (21%), but was larger compared with the total WA population (16%).

A smaller proportion (11%) of the Iran-born was without a weekly income, slightly larger than in 2001 (6%), but comparable to the proportion for all Western Australians (8%).

HOUSING

In 2011, almost half (46%) of the Iran-born owned their home compared with almost two-thirds (63%) of all Western Australians.

A larger proportion lived in a home they were purchasing (34%) than lived in a home they fully owned (12%). Both proportions were smaller compared with the total WA population (24% and 39%, respectively).

More than one-third (40%) of Iran-born Western Australians were living in rental accommodation, a larger proportion compared with the total WA population (27%).

Family

MARITAL STATUS

In 2011, more than two-thirds (68%) of the Iran-born aged over 25 years were married, which was comparable to 2006 (71%) but a larger proportion compared with the total WA population (58%). A slightly larger proportion of Iran-born women (71%) were married than men (65%).

The proportion of Iran-born widows (3%) was unchanged since 2006, and was comparable to all Western Australians (6%). A larger proportion of Iran-born women (5%) were widowed than men (0.7%).

The proportion of the Iran-born divorced or separated (9%) was almost unchanged since 2006 (12%) but was smaller compared with the total WA population (14%). The proportion of the Iran-born who had never married was larger in 2011 (21%) than in 2006 (14%) but was comparable to the proportion of the total WA population (23%). A larger proportion of men (27%) than women (13%) had never married.

FAMILY COMPOSITION

In 2011, almost half (49%) of the Iran-born lived in couple families with children. This was a smaller proportion than in 2006 (58%), but larger compared with the total WA population (20%). The proportion of couple families without children (20%) was comparable to 2006 (17%) but was half the proportion of all Western Australians (45%).

In 2011, 7% of the Iran-born lived in one-parent families. This was comparable to 2006 (10%) and to the total WA population (10%). Larger proportions of Iran-born women lived in couple families with children (53%) and one-parent families (10%) than men (45% and 6%, respectively).

Registered marital status (25+ years)	Iran-born				WA population 2011		
	2011			2006	Male %	Female %	Total %
	Male %	Female %	Total %	Total %			
Married	64.7	71.0	67.5	70.9	59.0	57.1	58.1
Widowed	0.7	4.8	2.5	3.3	2.3	8.8	5.6
Divorced/separated	8.4	10.7	9.4	11.8	12.3	14.9	13.6
Never married	26.5	13.2	20.6	14.1	26.3	19.2	22.7
Family composition (all ages)							
Couple family with children	45.3	53.5	48.9	57.5	45.0	44.7	44.8
Couple family without children	17.9	21.7	19.6	16.6	19.4	20.3	19.8
One-parent family	5.6	9.7	7.4	10.1	7.8	12.0	9.9



LIVING ARRANGEMENTS

In 2011, more than half (52%) of the Iran-born lived with a spouse or partner, which was similar to 2006 (54%) but larger compared with the proportion of the total WA population (42%). A larger proportion of Iran-born women (57%) than men (49%) were living with a spouse or partner.

One-quarter (25%) of the Iran-born were living with other family or non-family members, a larger proportion than in 2006 (14%) but smaller compared with the total WA population (38%). A larger proportion of women (30%) than men (21%) were living with other family or non-family members.

The proportion of the Iran-born (13%) not living at home was larger than in 2006 (3%) but was comparable to the WA population (12%). The proportion of Iran-born men (19%) not living at home was four times larger than that of women (5%).

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-quarter (29%) of the Iran-born aged over 65 years required such assistance, almost double the proportion of the total WA population (16%). A larger proportion of older Iran-born women (38%) than men (20%) required assistance. A small proportion (2%) of people aged between 15 and 64 years also required assistance.

In 2011, 10% of the Iran-born aged 15 years and over was providing unpaid care and/or assistance to a family member, similar to the proportion of all Western Australians (9%).

More information

For more information and assistance, please contact:

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