



Western Australian Community Profiles 2011 Census Italy-born

Introduction

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

Italy-born community in Western Australia

Italian migration to Western Australia (WA) began in the 1880s, but increased rapidly after World War II. In the 1950s, the Italian government encouraged people to migrate to Australia because of greater employment opportunities. Between 1950 and 1959, 8363 Italy-born people migrated to WA. In 2011, Italy was the sixth largest source country of the overseas-born in WA.

ITALY-BORN COMMUNITY AT A GLANCE

- There were 19,474 Italy-born in WA, 7% less than in 2006 (20,942).
- There were 111,894 Western Australians with Italian ancestry.
- The majority (85%) arrived in WA before 1981.
- The majority (82%) were Australian citizens.
- There were fewer women (9390) than men (10,124), with a sex ratio of 108 men for every 100 women.
- More than half (58%) of the Italy-born were older people aged over 65 years and the smallest group was children aged between 0 and 14 years (less than one per cent).
- The median age of the Italy-born was 68 years.
- Nearly two-thirds (62%) spoke English well and spoke a language other than English (LOTE) at home.

- ▣ The main language spoken by the Italy-born was Italian (80%).
- ▣ Most (91%) lived in the Greater Perth Metropolitan Area.
- ▣ More than one-third (38%) of the Italy-born aged 15 years and over had completed Year 12 or an equivalent level of education (19%), or had a technical qualification (19%).
- ▣ One-third (33%) were employed and almost two-thirds (62%) were not in the labour force.
- ▣ Italy-born Western Australians were mainly employed as technicians and trade workers (22%), managers (18%) and professionals (13%).
- ▣ More than one-third (40%) were middle income earners with a weekly income between \$300 and \$999 per week. Five per cent had no weekly income.
- ▣ The majority (83%) of the Italy-born owned their home.
- ▣ Two-thirds (67%) of the Italy-born aged over 25 years were married and almost half (45%) lived in couple families without children.
- ▣ One quarter (26%) of the Italy-born aged over 65 years required assistance with everyday living.

Migration, culture, language and religion

In 2011, there were 19,474 Italy-born Western Australians, representing 0.9% of the State's total population. This group had decreased by 7% (1468 people) since 2006. The majority (81%) were Australian citizens.

ARRIVAL

The majority (85%) of the Italy-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 Italy-born population was composed of a larger proportion of older people and a smaller proportion of children compared with the total WA population. In 2011, more than half (58%) of the Italy-born were aged over 65 years, a larger proportion than in 2001 (43%) and compared with the total WA population (12%).

Less than one per cent of the Italy-born were aged between 0 and 14 years, unchanged since 2001, but 20 times smaller compared with the same WA age group (20%).

Between 2001 and 2011, there was a decrease in the proportion of people aged between 45 and 64 years (from 45% to 34%). The proportion of young people aged between 15 and 24 years was relatively unchanged at less than one per cent.

The median age of the Italy-born was 68 years, compared with 36 years for the Western Australian population. There were seven Italy-born centenarians in Western Australia.



Age and gender profile	Italy-born					Total WA population 2011		
	2011			2006	2001	Male %	Female %	Total %
Age group	Male %	Female %	Total %	Total %	Total %	Male %	Female %	Total %
0–14 years	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.6	20.1	19.2	19.7
15–24 years	1.3	0.9	1.1	0.7	0.7	14.1	13.3	13.7
25–44 years	7.5	5.3	6.4	7.3	10.6	29.4	28.9	29.1
45–64 years	34.9	33.4	34.2	39.3	45.0	25.1	25.3	25.2
65+ years	55.5	59.6	57.5	52.0	43.1	11.3	13.2	12.3
All (number)	10,124	9350	19,474	20,942	23,058	1,126,177	1,112,994	2,239,171
Sex ratio	108.3			110	114	101.2		

In 2011, there were more Italy-born men than women. The sex ratio (number of men per 100 women) was 108. This was similar to 2006 (110), lower than in 2001 (114), but higher compared with the total WA population (101).

ANCESTRY

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

In 2011, most (96%) of the Italy-born identified as having Italian ancestry; unchanged since 2006. Small proportions of the Italy-born reported that they had English (1%), Australian (0.7%), Scottish (0.6%) and Irish (0.2%) ancestry. Most (99%) of the Italy-born had one or both parents born overseas.

Small numbers and proportions of the WA population (111,894 or 5%) and of the Australia-born (86,812 or 6%) identified that they have Italian ancestry.

Ancestry	Italy-born		WA population 2011	Australia-born 2011
	2011	2006		
Self-identified ancestry	Total %	Total %	Total %	Total %
Italian	96.3	96.2	5.0	6.1
English	1.2	1.2	37.9	41.3
Australian	0.7	0.9	49.6	51.3
Irish	0.2	0.6	8.4	9.7
Scottish	0.6	0.1	8.3	9.2
One or both parents born overseas	99.4	99.4	56.2	35.2
Both parents born in Australia	0.2	0.0	43.8	64.8
One parent born in Australia	0.2	0.6	51.3	75.3

Language	Italy-born					WA population 2011		
	2011			2006	2001	Male %	Female %	Total %
English proficiency	Male %	Female %	Total %	Total %	Total %	Male %	Female %	Total %
English only	23.8	14.0	19.1	18.7	17.3	78.8	79.8	79.3
Other language and English; very well or well	62.3	61.7	62.0	60.9	60.6	12.4	12.7	12.5
Other language and English; not well or not at all	12.7	23.2	17.8	19.3	20.3	1.8	2.4	2.1
Main language spoken at home other than English (top two responses)*								
Italian	75.0	84.8	79.7	80.1	85.7	1.3	1.5	1.4
Spanish	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.4	0.4	0.4

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

LANGUAGES

In 2011, more than three-quarters (81%) of Italy-born Western Australians reported speaking a language other than English (LOTE) at home, mainly Italian.

In 2011, almost two-thirds (62%) of Italy-born Western Australians reported speaking a LOTE and speaking English well or very well. This was almost unchanged since 2001 (61%). Almost 20% of Italy-born people reported speaking only English at home, a proportion unchanged since 2006.

The proportion of the Italy-born who reported speaking a LOTE and English not well or not at all was similar in 2001 (20%) and 2011 (18%). Almost twice the proportion of women (23%) than men (13%) reported low levels of English proficiency.

RELIGION

In 2011, most (94%) Italy-born Western Australians identified with Christianity. Small proportions identified with Buddhism (0.2%) and Islam (0.1%), or as having no religion (3%). Identification with Christianity was comparable to 2006 (95%) and as having no religion was relatively stable (2%). This differs from the general trend for the total WA population in which identification with Christianity had decreased and identification with non-Christian religions and as having no religion had increased.



Geographic distribution

Between 2001 and 2011, the settlement pattern for Italy-born Western Australians changed. In 2001, 82% lived in the Greater Perth Metropolitan Area and the remainder lived in non-metropolitan areas (18%). By 2011, the proportion of the Italy-born living in the Greater Perth Metropolitan Area had increased to 91% while the proportion living in non-metropolitan areas halved to 9%. Compared with the Italy-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 Italy-born lived mainly in the Local Government Areas of Stirling (21%), Cockburn (8%) and Bayswater (7%).

Education

In 2011, almost one-fifth (19%) of the Italy-born aged 15 years and over had completed Year 12 or an equivalent level of education. This was a larger proportion compared with 2001 (12%), but less than half the proportion of the total WA population (48%). A larger proportion of Italy-born men (22%) had completed Year 12 or an equivalent level of education than women (15%).

Between 2001 and 2011, the proportions of the Italy-born with qualifications at degree/tertiary level (3% and 6%, respectively) and at the advanced diploma, diploma or certificate level (16% and 19%, respectively) were comparable. A smaller proportion of the Italy-born (25%) held post-school qualifications than the total WA population (45%). The proportion of Italy-born men (35%) with a post-school qualification was almost three times larger than the proportion of women (14%).

A small proportion (6%) of Italy-born Western Australians reported that they had not attended school, a larger proportion compared with the total WA population (0.6%). A slightly larger proportion of Italy-born women (8%) than men (5%) had not attended school.

Educational attainment	Italy-born					WA population 2011		
	2011			2006	2001	Male %	Female %	Total %
Population (15+ years)	Male %	Female %	Total %	Total %	Total %	Male %	Female %	Total %
Degree/tertiary level	6.2	5.0	5.6	4.1	3.2	15.9	19.2	17.5
Advanced diploma/diploma/certificate	28.4	8.6	18.9	17.1	16.0	32.8	22.4	27.6
Completed Year 12/equivalent	22.3	14.8	18.7	15.1	12.4	46.2	49.4	47.8
Did not attend school	4.9	7.8	6.3	6.4	7.4	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, more than one-third (34%) of Italy-born Western Australians were in the workforce, comparable to 2001 (37%), but lower compared with the total WA (64%) population.

Between 2001 and 2011, the proportions of the Italy-born employed (35% and 33%, respectively), unemployed (2% and 0.7%, respectively), and not in the labour force (61% and 62%, respectively) were relatively stable. In 2011, the proportion of people unemployed was lower for the Italy-born compared with all Western Australians (3%), but the proportion not in the labour force was more than double the proportion of all Western Australians (29%).

A larger proportion of Italy-born men (42%) than women (24%) were employed. A larger proportion of women (72%) than men (53%) were not in the labour force. These gender-based trends reflect those for the total WA population, although the proportion of all Western Australian women in the labour force (55%) was larger compared with the Italy-born, and the proportion of those not in the labour force was smaller (36%).

OCCUPATION

In 2011, the Italy-born were employed mainly as technicians and trade workers (22%), managers (18%) and professionals (13%). The proportions of managers and technicians and trade workers were larger compared with the total WA population (12% and 17% respectively).

Italy-born men were mainly employed as technicians and trade workers (29%), managers (22%), labourers (12%)¹ and professionals (11%). Italy-born women were mainly employed as sales workers (16%), professionals (15%), community and personal service workers (13%), and clerical and administration workers (13%).

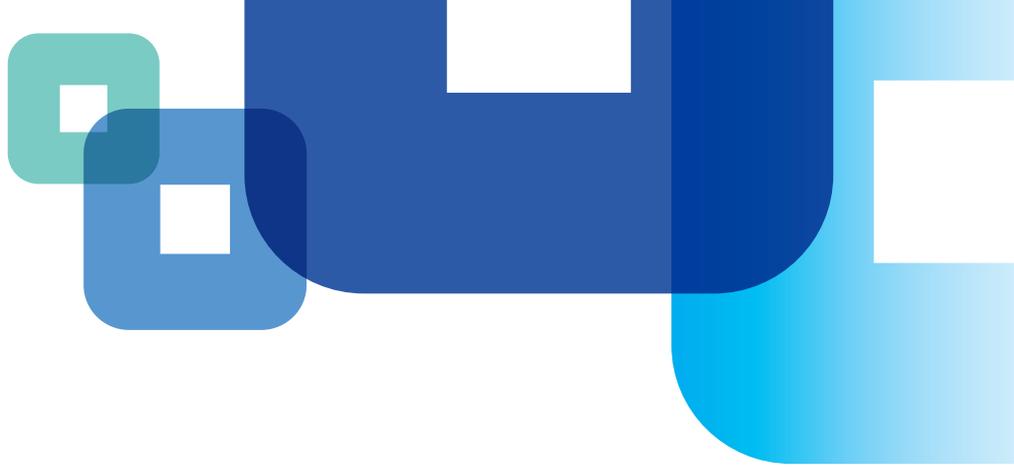
BUSINESS OWNERSHIP

In 2011, almost one-third (32%) of the Italy-born were small or medium business owners, a smaller proportion than in 2006 (38%) but more than double the proportion of the total WA population (15%).

More than half (57%) of the businesses owned by the Italy-born employed between one and 19 people, 35% were self-managed, and the remainder employed 20 or more people. The proportion of Italy-born men (39%) who were business owners was double the proportion of women (18%).

Labour force	Italy-born					WA population 2011		
	2011			2006	2001	Male %	Female %	Total %
Population (15+ years)	Male %	Female %	Total %	Total %	Total %	Male %	Female %	Total %
Employed	42.1	23.6	33.2	34.4	35.4	66.7	55.3	61.0
Unemployed	1.1	0.6	0.9	0.7	1.7	3.2	2.9	3.0
Not in the labour force	53.1	72.0	62.2	61.5	60.5	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	Italy-born					WA population 2011		
	2011			2006*	2001**	Male %	Female %	Total %
Population (15+ years)	Male %	Female %	Total %	Total %	Total %	Male %	Female %	Total %
None	3.4	6.7	5.0	4.5	4.2	5.6	9.8	7.7
< \$300	28.3	32.0	30.1	36.3	50.4	11.7	19.8	15.7
\$300–\$999	36.0	45.7	40.7	40.6	33.7	29.3	41.9	35.6
\$1000 or more	25.2	8.1	17.0	12.2	6.3	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, more than one-third (41%) of the Italy-born were middle income earners with a weekly income of between \$300 and \$999. This was larger than in 2001 (34%) but comparable to the proportion of the total WA population (37%).

The proportion of Italy-born people earning \$1000 or more per week (17%) was larger than in 2006 (12%) and almost three times larger than in 2001 (6%), but was almost half the proportion of all Western Australians (32%).

The proportion of Italy-born Western Australians earning less than \$300 per week almost halved between 2001 (50%) and 2011 (30%), however, this was almost double the proportion of the total WA population (16%).

A small proportion (5%) of the Italy-born was without a weekly income, unchanged since 2006 and comparable to the total WA population (8%).

A larger proportion of Italy-born men (25%) than women (8%) earned a high income, while a larger proportion of women (46%) than men (36%) were middle income earners.

HOUSING

In 2011, the majority (83%) of the Italy-born owned their home, compared with almost two-thirds (63%) of all Western Australians.

More than two-thirds of the Italy-born (68%) lived in a home they fully owned, compared with one-quarter (24%) of the total WA population. The proportion of people living in a home they were purchasing (15%) was less than half the proportion of the total WA population (39%).

A small proportion of Italy-born Western Australians was living in rental accommodation (7%), almost four times smaller compared with the WA population (26%).

Family

MARITAL STATUS

In 2011, two-thirds (67%) of the Italy-born aged over 25 years were married; this was a similar proportion to 2006 (65%) but larger compared with the total WA population (58%). A larger proportion of Italy-born men (76%) than women (57%) were married.

The proportion of Italy-born widows (18%) had more than doubled since 2006 (8%), and was three times larger compared with all Western Australians (6%). The proportion of widowed women (31%) was five times larger than the proportion of widowed men (6%).

The proportion of divorced Italy-born people (9%) was 13 times larger than in 2006 (0.7%) but was smaller compared with the total WA population (14%). The proportion of Italy-born people who had never married was lower in 2011 (6%) than in 2006 (27%).

FAMILY COMPOSITION

In 2011, almost half (45%) of Italy-born Western Australians lived in couple families without children, double the proportion (23%) of people living in couple families with children. While the proportion of couple families without children was similar to 2006 (43%), the proportion of couple families with children had almost doubled (from 12%).

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

In 2011, less than one per cent (0.6%) of the Italy-born lived in one-parent families, smaller than in 2006 (6%) and compared with the total WA population (10%).

Registered marital status (25+ years)	Italy-born				WA population 2011		
	2011		2006		Male %	Female %	Total %
	Male %	Female %	Total %	Total %	Male %	Female %	Total %
Married	76.0	57.1	66.9	64.7	59.0	57.1	58.1
Widowed	6.4	31.1	18.3	8.4	2.3	8.8	5.6
Divorced/separated	10.0	7.9	9.0	0.7	12.3	14.9	13.6
Never married	7.5	4.0	5.8	26.5	26.3	19.2	22.7

Family composition (all ages)

	Male %	Female %	Total %	Total %	Male %	Female %	Total %
Couple family with children	26.6	19.2	23.0	12.2	45.0	44.7	44.8
Couple family without children	49.6	39.6	44.8	43.3	19.4	20.3	19.8
One-parent family	0.5	0.7	0.6	6.1	7.8	12.0	9.9



LIVING ARRANGEMENTS

In 2011, two-thirds (65%) of the Italy-born lived with a spouse or partner, a slightly smaller proportion than in 2006 (69%). A larger proportion of men (74%) than women (55%) were living with a spouse. The proportion of women (31%) living alone was more than double that of men (14%).

Small proportions of the Italy-born were living with other family or non-family members (6%), or not living at home (6%). This was similar to the proportion (5%) in 2006.

Of the total Western Australian population a comparatively smaller proportion (42%) of people lived with a spouse or partner, and a larger proportion (34%) lived with other family or non-family members. The proportion of all Western Australians living alone (12%) was almost half the proportion of the Italy-born (22%).

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 (26%) of the Italy-born aged over 65 years and a small proportion (3%) aged between 15 and 64 years required such assistance. A larger proportion of older Italy-born women (32%) than men (21%) required such assistance. The proportion of older Italy-born women and men requiring assistance was higher compared with the WA population of the same age (18% and 13%, respectively).

More than one-tenth (13%) of the Italy-born aged 15 years and over were providing unpaid care and/or assistance to a family member, which was larger compared with proportion of the total WA population (9%).

More information

For more information and assistance, please contact:

OFFICE OF MULTICULTURAL INTERESTS

Department of Local Government and
Communities
GPO Box R1250 PERTH WA 6844

Phone: (08) 6551 8700

Fax: (08) 6552 1555

Email: harmony@omi.wa.gov.au

Website: www.omi.wa.gov.au