



Western Australian Community Profiles 2011 Census Malaysia-born

Introduction

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

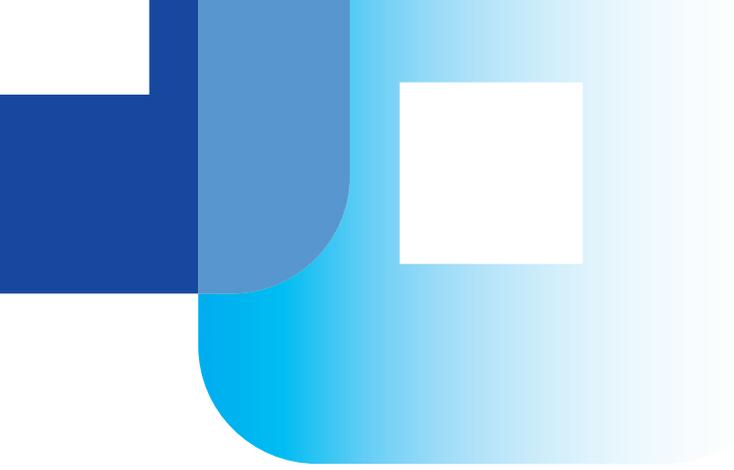
The purpose of this profile is to assist all Western Australians to understand the State's cultural diversity and the way it has changed over time. The information can be used for a variety of purposes including policy, program and service development, research and for general interest.

Malaysia-born community in Western Australia

Migration from Malaysia to Western Australia (WA) began in the 19th century with the arrival of mainly Malay people to work in the pearling industry. More than 240 Malaysia-born people arrived in WA between 1951 and 1960, many of them as international students under the Colombo Plan. During the 1960s and 1970s, migration of the Malaysia-born, particularly Chinese Malaysians, began to increase. Since 1981, migration from Malaysia has continued to increase with 6954 people arriving between 1981 and 1990 under the Family Reunion Program or as skilled or business migrants. Another 9138 people arrived between 2001 and 2010. In 2011, Malaysia was the fifth-largest source country of the overseas-born in WA.

MALAYSIA-BORN COMMUNITY AT A GLANCE

- There were 24,966 Malaysia-born people in WA, a 27% increase since 2006 (from 19,719).
- More than two-thirds (69%) of the Malaysia-born identified as having Chinese ancestry.
- More than one-third (37%) arrived in WA between 2001 and 2010.
- There were more women (13,559) than men (11,407) with a sex ratio of 84 men for every 100 women.
- More than one-third (35%) of the Malaysia-born were young



adults aged between 25 and 44 years, and a similar proportion (32%) were mature adults aged between 45 and 64 years. The smallest group was children aged between 0 and 14 years (6%).

- ▣ The median age of the Malaysia-born was 39 years.
- ▣ Almost two-thirds (62%) of the Malaysia-born spoke English well and spoke a language other than English (LOTE) at home.
- ▣ The main languages spoken by the Malaysia-born were Mandarin (27%) and Cantonese (19%).
- ▣ Most (97%) of the Malaysia-born lived in the Greater Perth Metropolitan Area.
- ▣ Three-quarters (76%) of the Malaysia-born aged 15 years and over had completed Year 12 or an equivalent level of education. Almost two-thirds (62%) had post-school qualifications.
- ▣ Almost two-thirds (63%) were employed and one-third (33%) were not in the labour force.
- ▣ The Malaysia-born were employed mainly as professionals (39%) and clerical and administrative workers (15%).
- ▣ Two-thirds (66%) were middle or high income earners: 35% had a weekly income of \$1000 or more and 31% earned between \$300 and \$999 per week. Less than one-fifth (16%) had no weekly income.
- ▣ Almost three-quarters (73%) of the Malaysia-born owned their home.
- ▣ More than two-thirds (68%) of the Malaysia-born aged 25 years and over were married and almost half (46%) lived in couple families with children.
- ▣ More than one-tenth (13%) of the Malaysia-born aged over 65 years required assistance with everyday living.

Migration, culture, ancestry, language and religion

In 2011, there were 24,966 Malaysia-born Western Australians, representing one per cent of the State's total population. This group had increased by 27% (from 19,719) since 2006. Half (50%) were Australian citizens.

ARRIVAL

More than one-third (37%) of the Malaysia-born arrived in WA between 2001 and 2010, mainly as skilled and business migrants and international students. This compares with the State's total overseas-born population, of which 28% arrived during the same period.

AGE AND GENDER

The Malaysia-born population was composed of a larger proportion of adults and a smaller proportion of children than the total WA population. In 2011, more than one-third (35%) of the Malaysia-born were aged between 25 and 44 years. This was a larger proportion than in 2001 (31%) and compared with the total WA population (29%).

A similar proportion of the Malaysia-born (32%) was aged between 45 and 64 years, comparable to 2001 (33%) but larger compared with the WA population (25%).

The proportion of the Malaysia-born aged between 0 and 14 years was stable between 2001 and 2011 (5% and 6%, respectively), but was three times smaller compared with the total WA population (20%). By contrast, there was a decrease in the proportion of the Malaysia-born aged between 15 and 24 years (from 24% to 17%), but this was comparable to all Western Australians (14%).

The median age of the Malaysia-born was 39 years, compared with 36 years for the total WA population.



Age and gender profile	Malaysia-born					WA population 2011		
	2011			2006	2001	Male %	Female %	Total %
Age group	Male %	Female %	Total %	Total %	Total %	Male %	Female %	Total %
0–14 years	7.1	5.0	6.1	4.9	4.8	20.1	19.2	19.7
15–24 years	17.8	15.5	16.6	21.0	24.4	14.1	13.3	13.7
25–44 years	34.5	34.9	34.7	30.4	30.6	29.4	28.9	29.1
45–64 years	29.5	34.1	31.8	34.4	33.3	25.1	25.3	25.2
65+ years	11.1	10.5	10.8	9.3	6.9	11.3	13.2	12.3
All (number)	11,407	13,559	24,966	19,719	17,377	1,126,177	1,112,994	2,239,171
Sex ratio	84.1			83.2	83.9	101.2		

In 2011, there were more Malaysia-born women than men. The sex ratio (number of men per 100 women) was 84, a figure consistent since 2001 (84) but lower compared with the total WA population (101).

ANCESTRY

People who were born in Malaysia, who have one or both parents born there, or who were born elsewhere but have Malaysian ancestors, may identify that they have Malay or Malaysian ancestry. In 2011, 3495 (14%) of the Malaysia-born identified that they had Malay ancestry, consistent since 2006.

More than two-thirds (69%) of the Malaysia-born identified as having Chinese ancestry, and smaller proportions identified that they had Indian (7%), English (4%) or Australian (2%) ancestry. Most (97%) had one or both parents born overseas.

In 2011, the Western Australia and Australia-born identified that they had similar ancestries, such as Chinese (75,935 or 3%, and 17,523 or 1%, respectively), Malay (8300 or 0.4%, and 3396 or 0.2%, respectively) or Indian (40,305 or 2%, and 8840 or 0.6%, respectively).

Ancestry	Malaysia-born		WA population 2011	Australia-born 2011
	2011	2006		
Self-identified ancestry	Total %	Total %	Total %	Total %
Chinese	68.9	69.7	3.4	1.2
Malay	14.0	14.1	0.4	0.2
Indian	7.4	7.1	1.8	0.6
English	4.2	5.1	37.9	41.3
Australian	2.2	2.7	32.0	49.6
One or both parents born overseas	97.2	96.1	56.2	35.2
Both parents born in Australia	1.5	NA	43.8	64.8
One parent born in Australia	4.8	5.6	51.3	75.3

Language	Malaysia-born					WA population 2011		
	2011			2006	2001	Male %	Female %	Total %
English proficiency	Male %	Female %	Total %	Total %	Total %	Male %	Female %	Total %
English only	31.1	31.4	31.2	33.8	34.6	78.8	79.8	79.3
Other language and English; very well or well	63.4	61.5	62.4	58.8	57.5	12.4	12.7	12.5
Other language and English; not well or not at all	4.9	6.5	5.7	6.7	7.4	1.8	2.4	2.1
Main language spoken at home other than English (top two responses)*								
Mandarin	28.2	27.2	27.2	23.4	18.5	1.2	1.3	1.3
Cantonese	18.7	15.8	19.3	22.4	25.3	0.7	0.9	0.8

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

LANGUAGES

In 2011, more than two-thirds (68%) of Malaysia-born Western Australians reported speaking a language other than English (LOTE) at home, mainly Mandarin (27%) and Cantonese (19%). The proportion of Cantonese speakers decreased between 2001 and 2011 (from 25%), while that of Mandarin speakers increased (from 19%).

In 2011, nearly two-thirds (62%) of the Malaysia-born reported speaking a LOTE and speaking English well or very well. This was a slightly larger proportion than in 2001 (58%). Almost one-third (31%) spoke English only at home which was a smaller proportion than in 2001 (35%).

The proportion of the Malaysia-born (6%) who reported speaking a LOTE and English not well or not at all had remained relatively stable since 2001.

RELIGION

In 2011, almost half (45%) of the Malaysia-born identified with Christianity. The top five religious identifications included Buddhism (25%), having no religion (13%), Islam (7%) and Hinduism (4%). All were unchanged since 2001. This stable trend was different compared with 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 Malaysia-born Western Australians was stable. In 2011, most (97%) lived in the Greater Perth Metropolitan Area and only 3% lived in non-metropolitan areas. Compared with the Malaysia-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 Malaysia-born lived mainly in the Local Government Areas of Canning (20%), Melville (12%), Gosnells (11%) and Stirling (9%).

Education

In 2011, three-quarters (76%) of the Malaysia-born aged 15 years and over had completed Year 12 or an equivalent level of education, a larger proportion than in 2001 (64%) and compared with the total WA population (48%).

Between 2001 and 2011, there was an increase in the proportion of the Malaysia-born with qualifications at degree/tertiary level (from 26% to 41%), while the proportion with qualifications at advanced diploma, diploma and certificate level remained stable (20%). A larger proportion of Malaysia-born people held post-school qualifications compared with the total WA population (62% and 45%, respectively). A larger proportion of Malaysia-born men had a degree level qualification than women (45% and 39%, respectively).

A fraction (1%) of Malaysia-born Western Australians reported that they had not attended school, which was comparable to the total WA population (0.6%).

Educational attainment	Malaysia-born					WA population 2011		
	2011			2006	2001	Male %	Female %	Total %
Population (15+ years)	Male %	Female %	Total %	Total %	Total %	Male %	Female %	Total %
Degree/tertiary level	44.7	38.5	41.3	36.7	26.4	15.9	19.2	17.5
Advanced diploma/ diploma/ certificate	20.1	20.4	20.3	19.8	19.9	32.8	22.4	27.6
Completed Year 12/equivalent	78.9	74.0	76.2	71.7	64.1	46.2	49.4	47.8
Did not attend school	0.8	1.9	1.4	1.6	2.2	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, two-thirds (66%) of Malaysia-born Western Australians were in the labour force, a larger proportion than in 2001 (59%) but comparable to the total WA population (64%).

Between 2001 and 2011, the proportion of the Malaysia-born not in the labour force decreased (from 41% to 33%), the proportion employed increased (from 54% to 62%) and the rate of unemployment remained relatively stable (4%). These figures were comparable to those for the total WA population (29%, 61% and 3% respectively).

Labour force	Malaysia-born					WA population 2011		
	2011			2006	2001	Male %	Female %	Total %
Population (15+ years)	Male %	Female %	Total %	Total %	Total %	Male %	Female %	Total %
Employed	69.0	57.1	62.5	60.5	54.2	66.7	55.3	61.0
Unemployed	4.2	3.6	3.8	2.9	4.6	3.2	2.9	3.0
Not in the labour force	26.1	38.6	33.0	35.7	40.7	22.7	36.1	29.4

A larger proportion of Malaysia-born men (69%) were employed than women (57%). A larger proportion of women (39%) were not in the labour force than men (26%). These gender-based trends reflect those for the total WA population, of which 67% of men and 55% of women were employed, while more than one-third of women (36%) but less than a quarter of men (23%) were not in the labour force.

OCCUPATION

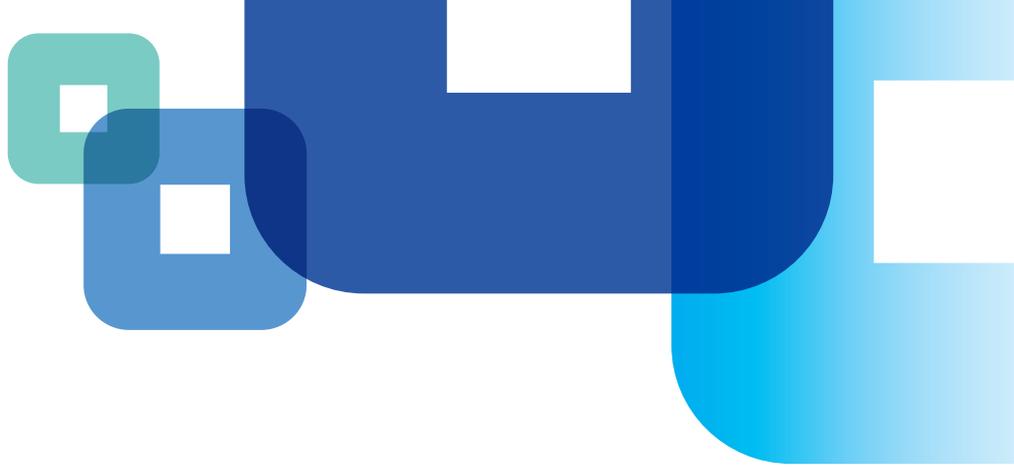
The Malaysia-born were mainly employed as professionals (39%), clerical and administrative workers (15%) and managers (10%). These occupation groups and rates were comparable to those for the total WA population, except that the proportion of Western Australian professionals was smaller (17%).

Malaysia-born men were mainly employed as professionals (38%), technicians and trade workers (13%) and managers (13%). Malaysia-born women were mainly employed as professionals (39%), clerical and administrative workers (21%) and community and personal service workers (11%).

BUSINESS OWNERSHIP

In 2011, 13% of the Malaysia-born were small or medium business owners. This proportion had remained stable since 2006 (14%) and was comparable to the proportion of all Western Australians (15%).

Almost two-thirds (62%) of businesses owned by the Malaysia-born employed between one and 19 people, one-third (31%) were self-managed, and the remainder (3%) employed 20 or more people. A larger proportion of Malaysia-born men (16%) than women (9%) were business owners.



Weekly income	Malaysia-born					WA population 2011		
	2011			2006*	2001**	Male %	Female %	Total %
Population (15+ years)	Male %	Female %	Total %	Total %	Total %	Male %	Female %	Total %
None	12.7	17.9	15.5	15.2	13.9	5.6	9.8	7.7
< \$300	13.3	19.0	16.4	20.7	32.8	11.7	19.8	15.7
\$300–\$999	27.8	33.3	30.8	39.6	38.3	29.3	41.9	35.6
\$1000 or more	43.9	27.3	34.8	21.4	11.6	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 (35%) of the Malaysia-born were high income earners with a weekly income of \$1000 or more, a proportion almost three-times larger than in 2001 (12%) but comparable to the total WA population (32%). A larger proportion of men (44%) than women (27%) were high income earners.

A similar proportion (31%) was middle income earners with a weekly income between \$300 and \$999, which was less than in 2001 (38%). The proportion of the Malaysia-born earning less than \$300 per week halved between 2001 and 2011 (from 33% to 16%). Both were comparable to the figures for the total WA population (36% and 16%, respectively). A larger proportion of Malaysia-born women (19%) were low income earners than men (13%).

The proportion of the Malaysia-born without a weekly income (16%) was double the proportion of the total WA population (8%).

HOUSING

In 2011, almost three-quarters (72%) of the Malaysia-born owned their home compared with almost two-thirds (63%) of all Western Australians. Almost equal proportions of the Malaysia-born lived in a home they fully owned (35%) or in a home they were purchasing (37%), compared with 24% and 39%, respectively, of all Western Australians.

Almost one-quarter (23%) of the Malaysia-born lived in rental accommodation, which was comparable to the proportion of the total WA population (26%).

Family

MARITAL STATUS

In 2011, more than two-thirds (68%) of the Malaysia-born aged 25 years and over were married, a proportion similar to 2006 (70%), but larger compared with the total WA population (58%).

Between 2006 and 2011, the proportions of the Malaysia-born never married (21%), divorced or separated (7%), or widowed (4%) were relatively unchanged. Comparable proportions of all Western Australians were never married (23%) or widowed (6%), while the divorce rate was double (14%).

A larger proportion of Malaysia-born women (6%) than men (1%) were widowed. A larger proportion of men (24%) than women (18%) had never been married.

FAMILY COMPOSITION

In 2011, almost half (46%) of the Malaysia-born were living in couple families with children, double the proportion of people living in couple families without children (22%). This pattern was consistent since 2006 and the proportions were comparable to the total WA population (45% and 20%, respectively).

The proportion of the Malaysia-born who lived in one-parent families was unchanged from 2006 (8%) and was comparable to the total WA population (10%). The proportion of women (10%) that lived in one-parent families was double that of men (5%).

Registered marital status (25+ years)	Malaysia-born				WA population 2011		
	2011			2006	Male %	Female %	Total %
	Male %	Female %	Total %	Total %			
Married	69.6	66.9	68.1	69.9	59.0	57.1	58.1
Widowed	1.1	6.2	3.9	4.0	2.3	8.8	5.6
Divorced/separated	5.7	8.8	7.4	8.1	12.3	14.9	13.6
Never married	23.5	18.1	20.5	17.9	26.3	19.2	22.7
Family composition (all ages)							
Couple family with children	48.2	44.4	46.1	48.5	45.0	44.7	44.8
Couple family without children	21.7	22.8	22.3	19.7	19.4	20.3	19.8
One-parent family	5.4	9.5	7.6	8.4	7.8	12.0	9.9



LIVING ARRANGEMENTS

In 2011, more than half (54%) of the Malaysia-born were living with a spouse or partner. This proportion was comparable to 2006 (53%) but was larger compared with the total WA population (42%).

One-quarter (26%) of the Malaysia-born were living with other family or non-family members, unchanged since 2006 but smaller compared with the total WA population (34%). The proportion of men living with other family or non-family members (26%) was slightly larger than that of women (23%).

Comparable proportions of the Malaysia-born and the total WA population were living alone (12%) or not living at home (around 9%). A larger proportion of Malaysia-born women (14%) were living alone than men (9%).

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, 13% of the Malaysia-born aged 65 years and over required such assistance. A larger proportion of older women required assistance (16%) than men (9%). For all other age groups the proportion was around one per cent. This gender based trend was similar to that for the total WA population, of which a larger proportion of older women (18%) required assistance than older men (13%).

In 2011, 7% of the Malaysia-born aged 15 years and over was providing unpaid care and/or assistance to a family member, comparable to the proportion of all Western Australians (9%).

More information

For more information and assistance, please contact:

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