



# Western Australian Community Profiles 2011 Census

## Netherlands-born

### Introduction

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

### Netherlands-born community in Western Australia

The Netherlands-born have a long history of contact with Australia and Western Australia (WA). Dutch ships reached Australia in the early 1600s, pre-dating British settlement. It is reported that survivors from ships wrecked off the WA coast settled here and lived in Aboriginal communities. Large scale migration occurred after World War II, peaking in the 1960s. More than two-thirds (69%) of the Netherlands-born arrived in WA before 1981.

#### NETHERLANDS-BORN COMMUNITY AT A GLANCE

- There were 9982 Netherlands-born people in WA in 2011, a smaller number than in 2006 (10,109).
- There were 45,317 Western Australians with Dutch ancestry.
- More than two-thirds (69%) arrived in WA before 1981.
- Almost three-quarters (73%) were Australian citizens.
- There were more men (5037) than women (4945) with a sex ratio of 102 men for every 100 women.
- Almost half (44%) of the Netherlands-born were older people aged 65 years and over. The smallest group was young people aged between 15 and 24 years (3%).
- The median age of the Netherlands-born was 63 years.
- More than one-third (39%) of the Netherlands-born spoke English well and spoke a language other than English (LOTE) at home.

- ▣ The main language spoken by the Netherlands-born was Dutch (38%).
- ▣ More than three-quarters (80%) of the Netherlands-born lived in the Greater Perth Metropolitan Area.
- ▣ Almost half (47%) of the Netherlands-born aged 15 years and over had completed Year 12 or an equivalent level of education, and almost half (48%) had a technical (32%) or degree/tertiary qualification (17%).
- ▣ Almost half (44%) were employed and more than half (52%) were not in the labour force.
- ▣ The Netherlands-born were employed mainly as professionals (23%), technicians and trade workers (17%), and managers (15%).
- ▣ More than two-thirds (68%) were middle or high income earners: 44 per cent had a weekly income of between \$300 and \$999 and 24 per cent had a weekly income of \$1000 or more.
- ▣ Almost three-quarters (72%) of the Netherlands-born owned their home.
- ▣ Almost two-thirds (65%) of the Netherlands-born aged 25 years and over were married and almost half (43%) lived in couple families without children.
- ▣ Almost one-fifth (16%) of the Netherlands-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 9982 Netherlands-born Western Australians, representing 0.4 per cent of the State's total population. This number was smaller than in 2006 (10,109) and 2001 (10,500). Almost three-quarters (73%) were Australian citizens.

### ARRIVAL

More than two-thirds (69%) of the Netherlands-born arrived in WA before 1981. This compares with the State's total overseas-born population of which 25 per cent arrived during the same period.

### AGE AND GENDER

The Netherlands-born population is composed of larger proportions of older people and adults, and smaller proportions of children, young people and young adults, compared with the total WA population. In 2011, almost half (44%) of the Netherlands-born were older people aged 65 years and over, representing an increase from 2006 (36%), and more than one-third (37%) were adults aged between 45 and 64 years, indicating a decrease since 2006 (47%). Both proportions were larger compared with the total WA population (12% and 25%, respectively).

Between 2001 and 2011, the proportions of Netherlands-born children aged between 0 and 14 years (3%), young people aged between 15 and 24 years (3%) and young adults aged between 25 and 44 years (13%) were stable. These proportions were smaller compared with the total WA population (20%, 14% and 29%, respectively). The median age of the Netherlands-born was 63 years, compared with 36 years for the total WA population.



Age and gender profile	Netherlands-born					WA population 2011		
	2011			2006	2001	Male %	Female %	Total %
Age group	Male %	Female %	Total %	Total %	Total %	Male %	Female %	Total %
0–14 years	3.6	2.9	3.2	2.4	1.8	20.1	19.2	19.7
15–24 years	2.3	2.6	2.5	2.0	2.5	14.1	13.3	13.7
25–44 years	13.2	13.7	13.4	13.4	13.2	29.4	28.9	29.1
45–64 years	37.5	36.0	36.8	46.5	51.2	25.1	25.3	25.2
65+ years	43.3	44.7	44.0	35.7	31.3	11.3	13.2	12.3
All (number)	5037	4945	9982	10,109	10,500	1,126,177	1,112,994	2,239,171
Sex ratio			101.9	102.3	105.5			101.2

In 2011, there were more Netherlands-born men than women. The sex ratio (number of men per 100 women) was 102. This was similar to 2006 (102) and 2001 (106), and compared with the total WA population (101).

### ANCESTRY

People born in the Netherlands, who have one or both parents born there, or who were born elsewhere but have Dutch ancestors, may identify that they have Dutch ancestry. In 2011, most (95%) of the Netherlands-

born identified that they had Dutch ancestry.

Netherlands-born Western Australians also reported that they had English (2%), Australian (2%), German (2%) and Indonesian (1%) ancestries. Most (99%) had one or both parents born overseas.

Small numbers and proportions of the WA population (45,317 or 2%) and the Australia-born (29,033 or 2%) identified that they had Dutch ancestry.

Ancestry	Netherlands-born		WA population 2011	Australia-born 2011
	2011	2006		
Self-identified ancestry	Total %	Total %	Total %	Total %
Dutch	94.5	95.3	2.0	2.1
English	2.3	1.6	37.9	41.4
Australian	2.2	1.8	32.3	49.7
German	1.6	1.8	2.8	3.2
Indonesian	0.8	0.7	0.4	0.2
One or both parents born overseas	99	97	56.2	35.2
Both parents born in Australia	0.4	0.3	43.8	64.8
One parent born in Australia	3.5	2.9	51.3	75.3

Language	Netherlands-born					WA population 2011		
	2011			2006	2001	Male %	Female %	Total %
English proficiency	Male %	Female %	Total %	Total %	Total %			
English only	63.0	54.8	59.0	60.2	59.6	78.8	79.8	79.3
Other language and English; very well or well	35.3	42.9	39.0	37.9	38.8	12.4	12.7	12.5
Other language and English; not well or not at all	0.6	1.2	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.8	2.4	2.1
<b>Main language spoken at home other than English (top two responses)*</b>								
Dutch	34.3	42.4	38.3	37.3	38.1	0.2	0.3	0.2
German	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.3	N/A	0.4	0.4	0.4

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

## LANGUAGES

In 2011, more than one-third (40%) of Netherlands-born Western Australians reported speaking a language other than English (LOTE) at home, mainly Dutch (38%).

More than one-third (39%) reported speaking a LOTE and speaking English very well or well, unchanged since 2001 (39%). A larger proportion of women (43%) than men (35%) reported speaking a LOTE and English very well or well.

In 2011, almost two-thirds (59%) of the Netherlands-born spoke only English at home, unchanged since 2001 (60%). A larger proportion of men (63%) than women (55%) spoke only English at home.

Less than one per cent of the Netherlands-born reported speaking a LOTE and English not well or not at all.

## RELIGION

The religious affiliation of Netherlands-born Western Australians was unchanged between 2001 and 2011. Almost two-thirds (60%) of the Netherlands-born identified with Christianity, one-third (33%) as having no religion and less than one per cent identified with Buddhism or Islam. This contrasts with the general trend for the total WA population for which identification with Christianity decreased, and identification with non-Christian religions, or as having no religion, increased.



## Geographic distribution

Between 2001 and 2011, the settlement pattern for Netherlands-born Western Australians was almost unchanged. In 2011, more than three-quarters (80%) lived in the Greater Perth Metropolitan Area and 19 per cent lived in non-metropolitan areas, compared with 76 per cent and 24 per cent, respectively, in 2001. These proportions are comparable to the total Western Australian population (77% and 22%, respectively).

Within the Greater Perth Metropolitan Area, the Netherlands-born lived mainly in the Local Government Areas (LGAs) of Stirling (7%), Armadale (7%) and Gosnells (6%).

## Education

In 2011, almost half (47%) of the Netherlands-born aged 15 years and over had completed Year 12 or an equivalent level of education. This was a slightly larger proportion than in 2006 (43%) and 2001 (40%), but comparable to the total WA population (48%).

Between 2001 and 2011, the proportion of the Netherlands-born with qualifications at degree/tertiary level increased (from 11% to 17%), while the proportion with advanced diploma, diploma or certificate level qualifications was stable (32%). A larger proportion of Netherlands-born men (41%) than women (22%) had an advanced diploma. The proportion of the Netherlands-born with post-school qualifications (48%) was comparable to the total WA population (45%).

Less than one per cent (0.4%) of Netherlands-born Western Australians reported that they had not attended school, comparable to the total WA population (0.6%).

Educational attainment	Netherlands-born					WA population 2011		
	2011			2006	2001	Male %	Female %	Total %
Population (15+ years)	Male %	Female %	Total %	Total %	Total %	Male %	Female %	Total %
Degree/tertiary level	17.7	15.4	16.5	13.3	10.8	15.9	19.2	17.5
Advanced diploma/ diploma/ certificate	40.7	21.5	31.9	30.8	30.4	32.8	22.4	27.6
Completed Year 12/equivalent	49.7	44.2	47.0	42.6	40.0	46.2	49.4	47.8
Did not attend school	0.2	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4	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, almost half (45%) of Netherlands-born Western Australians were in the labour force. This was comparable to 2001 (49%) and smaller compared with the total WA population (64%).

Between 2001 and 2011, there was a decrease in the proportion of the Netherlands-born employed (from 47% to 44%), and this was smaller compared with the total WA population (61%). The proportion not in the labour force increased during the same period (from 48% to 52%), and was larger compared with the total WA population (29%).

The rate of unemployment decreased slightly (from 3% to 1%) and was comparable to the total WA population (3%).

Labour force	Netherlands-born					WA population 2011		
	2011			2006	2001	Male %	Female %	Total %
Population (15+ years)	Male %	Female %	Total %	Total %	Total %	Male %	Female %	Total %
Employed	51.5	36.0	43.7	45.9	46.5	66.7	55.3	61.0
Unemployed	1.1	1.5	1.3	1.2	2.6	3.2	2.9	3.0
Not in the labour force	45.1	59.5	52.3	50.0	48.3	22.7	36.1	29.4

A larger proportion of Netherlands-born men (52%) than women (36%) were employed. A larger proportion of women than men were not in the labour force (60% and 45%, respectively). These gender-based trends reflect those for the total Western Australian population of which 67 per cent of men and 55 per cent 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

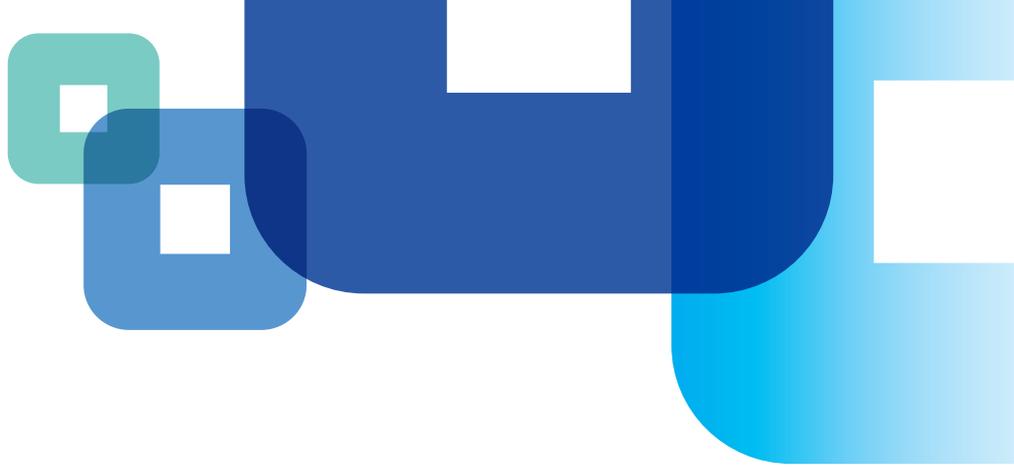
The Netherlands-born were mainly employed as professionals (23%), technicians and trade workers (17%), and managers (15%). These proportions were comparable to the total WA population (20%, 17% and 12%, respectively).

Netherlands-born men were mainly employed as technicians and trade workers (25%), professionals (22%) and managers (19%). Netherlands-born women were mainly employed as professionals (26%), clerical and administrative workers (23%), and community and personal service workers (18%).

### BUSINESS OWNERSHIP

In 2011, one-quarter (24%) of Netherlands-born people were small or medium business owners, similar to 2006 (27%) but a larger proportion compared with the total WA population (15%).

Half (50%) of the businesses owned by the Netherlands-born were self-managed, and almost half (46%) employed between one and 19 people. The remainder (3%) employed 20 or more people. A larger proportion of Netherlands-born men (29%) than women (18%) were business owners.



Weekly income	Netherlands-born					WA population 2011		
	2011			2006*	2001**	Male %	Female %	Total %
Population (15+ years)	Male %	Female %	Total %	Total %	Total %	Male %	Female %	Total %
None	2.7	8.2	5.4	5.0	5.2	5.6	9.8	7.7
<\$300	18.8	25.4	22.0	26.3	41.1	11.7	19.8	15.7
\$300–999	38.6	48.6	43.6	46.1	38.7	29.3	41.9	35.6
\$1000 or more	35.8	12.6	24.3	17.7	10.3	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

Almost half (44%) of the Netherlands-born were middle income earners with a weekly income between \$300 and \$999. This proportion was larger compared to 2001 (39%) and with all Western Australians (36%).

Between 2001 and 2011, the proportion of Netherlands-born Western Australians earning a high income of \$1000 or more per week increased (from 10% to 24%), but was smaller compared with the total WA population (32%). In contrast, the proportion of people earning \$300 or less per week decreased (from 41% to 22%), but was larger compared with all Western Australians (16%).

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

Larger proportions of Netherlands-born women were middle (49%) and low income (25%) earners than men (39% and 19%, respectively). A larger proportion of men (36%) than women (13%) were high income earners.

## HOUSING

In 2011, almost three-quarters (72%) of the Netherlands-born owned their home compared with almost two-thirds (63%) of all Western Australians.

Almost half (48%) of the Netherlands-born lived in a home they fully owned and one-quarter (24%) lived in a home they were purchasing. The comparative figures for the total WA population were 24 per cent and 39 per cent, respectively.

In 2011, 18 per cent of the Netherlands-born were living in rental accommodation, a smaller proportion compared with the total WA population (26%).

## Family

### MARITAL STATUS

In 2011, almost two-thirds (65%) of the Netherlands-born aged 25 years and over were married, comparable to 2006 (67%) but larger compared with the total WA population (58%). A larger proportion of men (71%) than women (58%) were married.

Between 2006 and 2011, the proportion of the Netherlands-born who were divorced or separated decreased (from 23% to 14%) but was the same as the total WA population (14%). The proportion of the Netherlands-born who were widowed (12%) was stable, but larger compared with the total WA population (6%). A larger proportion of Netherlands-born women (19%) than men (6%) were widowed.

The proportion of the Netherlands-born who had never married was relatively unchanged between 2006 and 2011 (8%), but was smaller compared with the total WA population (23%).

### FAMILY COMPOSITION

In 2011, almost half (43%) of the Netherlands-born lived in couple families without children, and one-quarter (24%) lived in couple families with children. Both proportions were comparable to 2006 (44% and 24%, respectively), but different to the total WA population (20% and 45%, respectively).

In 2011, four per cent of the Netherlands-born lived in one-parent families, comparable to 2006 (5%) but smaller compared with the proportion of the total WA population (10%). A larger proportion of women (6%) than men (3%) lived in one-parent families.

### LIVING ARRANGEMENTS

In 2011, almost two-thirds (60%) of the Netherlands-born lived with a spouse or partner, similar to 2006 (64%) but larger compared with the proportion of all Western Australians (42%). A larger proportion of Netherlands-born men (66%) than women (55%) were living with a spouse.

Registered marital status (25+ years)	Netherlands-born				WA population 2011		
	2011			2006	Male %	Female %	Total %
	Male %	Female %	Total %	Total %	Male %	Female %	Total %
Married	71.1	58.3	64.7	67.0	59.0	57.1	58.1
Widowed	5.5	19.3	12.3	11.7	2.3	8.8	5.6
Divorced/separated	11.6	15.6	13.6	23.4	12.3	14.9	13.6
Never married	9.0	7.0	8.0	7.3	26.3	19.2	22.7
<b>Family composition (all ages)</b>							
Couple family with children	25.2	21.9	23.6	23.8	45.0	44.7	44.8
Couple family without children	46.9	38.7	42.8	43.6	19.4	20.3	19.8
One-parent family	2.6	5.9	4.2	4.6	7.8	12.0	9.9



The proportions of the Netherlands-born living with other family or non-family members was unchanged between 2006 and 2011 (7%), but was smaller compared with all Western Australians (35%). The proportion of the Netherlands-born not living at home (7%) was also unchanged and comparable to the proportion of all Western Australians (8%).

A larger proportion of the Netherlands-born lived alone compared with all Western Australians (20% and 12%, respectively). A larger proportion of Netherlands-born women (26%) than men (14%) 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, 16 per cent of the Netherlands-born aged 65 years and over required such assistance. More women (19%) than men (13%) aged 65 years and over required assistance. These figures were comparable to all Western Australian women and men of the same age (18% and 13%, respectively). Small proportions of the Netherlands-born aged between 0 and 14 years (2%) and between 15 and 64 years (3%) also required such assistance.

In 2011, 12 per cent of the Netherlands-born aged 15 years and over were providing unpaid care and/or assistance to a family member, a rate comparable with the total WA population (9%).

## **More information**

For more information and assistance, please contact:

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