



# Western Australian Community Profiles 2011 Census

## Philippines-born

### Introduction

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

### Philippines-born community in Western Australia

The Philippines-born have been migrating to Western Australia (WA) since the late 19th century. Many settled in Broome to work as divers in the pearling industry. Migration slowed as a result of the *Immigration Restriction Act 1901*, but resumed during the 1950s with the arrival of Philippines-born international students through the Colombo Plan. Later, the Philippines-born arrived as humanitarian entrants during and after the Vietnam War, and as spouses under the Family Reunion program. More than two-thirds (68%) of the Philippines-born have arrived in WA since 2001, mainly as skilled migrants.

#### PHILIPPINES-BORN COMMUNITY AT A GLANCE

- There were 17,231 Philippines-born people in WA in 2011, more than double the number in 2006 (6831).
- There were 20,403 Western Australians with Filipino ancestry.
- Almost two-thirds (61%) arrived in WA between 2001 and 2010.
- More than one-third (38%) were Australian citizens.
- There were more women (9905) than men (7326) with a sex ratio of 74 men for every 100 women.
- Almost half (46%) of the Philippines-born were young adults aged between 25 and 44 years. The smallest group was older people aged 65 years and over (3%).

- ▣ The median age of the Philippines-born was 35 years.
- ▣ More than three-quarters (78%) of the Philippines-born spoke English well and spoke a language other than English (LOTE) at home.
- ▣ The main languages spoken by the Philippines-born were Tagalog (46%) and Filipino (31%).
- ▣ More than three-quarters (78%) of the Philippines-born lived in the Greater Perth Metropolitan Area.
- ▣ Almost three-quarters (71%) of the Philippines-born aged 15 years and over had completed Year 12 or an equivalent level of education, and almost two-thirds had a university (35%) or technical (24%) qualification.
- ▣ Almost three-quarters (72%) of the Philippines-born aged 15 years and over were employed.
- ▣ The Philippines-born were employed mainly as technicians and trade workers (29%), labourers (20%), community and personal service workers (12%), and professionals (12%).
- ▣ Almost half (42%) had a weekly income of between \$300 and \$999. More than one-quarter (29%) earned \$1000 or more a week.
- ▣ More than one-third (40%) of the Philippines-born owned their home.
- ▣ More than three-quarters (77%) of the Philippines-born aged 25 years and over were married and almost two-thirds (61%) lived in couple families with children.
- ▣ More than one-tenth (14%) of the Philippines-born aged 65 years and over required assistance with everyday living.

## Migration, culture, ancestry, language and religion

---

In 2011, there were 17,231 Philippines-born Western Australians, representing less than one per cent (0.8%) of the State's total population. This group had more than doubled since 2006 (6831). More than one-third (38%) were Australian citizens.

### ARRIVAL

Almost two-thirds (61%) of Philippines-born people arrived in WA between 2001 and 2010. This compares with the State's total overseas-born population of which 28 per cent arrived during the same period.

### AGE AND GENDER

The Philippines-born population is composed of a larger proportion of young adults and a smaller proportion of older people than the total WA population. In 2011, almost half (46%) of the Philippines-born were young adults aged between 25 and 44 years, which was comparable to 2006 (44%), but larger compared with the total WA population (29%).

The proportion of the Philippines-born aged 65 years and over was unchanged since 2001 (around 3%) but smaller compared with the total WA population (12%). The median age of the Philippines-born was 35 years, compared to 36 years for the total WA population.

Between 2006 and 2011, there was an increase in the proportion of the Philippines-born aged between 0 and 14 years (from 7% to 17%) and a decrease in the proportion of adults aged between 45 and 64 years (from 34% to 24%). The proportion of Philippines-born young people aged between 15 and 24 years was stable (around 11%). All were comparable to the corresponding proportions of the total WA population (20%, 25% and 14%, respectively).



Age and gender profile	Philippines-born					WA population 2011		
	2011			2006	2001	Male %	Female %	Total %
Age group	Male %	Female %	Total %	Total %	Total %	Male %	Female %	Total %
0–14 years	20.8	14.9	17.4	7.1	8.5	20.1	19.2	19.7
15–24 years	11.9	10.0	10.8	11.5	14.3	14.1	13.3	13.7
25–44 years	49.8	42.3	45.5	43.8	45.0	29.4	28.9	29.1
45–64 years	16.4	29.2	23.7	33.9	29.2	25.1	25.3	25.2
65+ years	1.2	3.6	2.5	3.7	3.1	11.3	13.2	12.3
All (number)	7326	9905	17,231	6831	5372	1,126,177	1,112,994	2,239,171
Sex ratio			73.9	47	34.2			101.2

In 2011, there were more Philippines-born women than men. The sex ratio (number of men per 100 women) was 74. This was higher than in 2006 (47) and 2001 (34), but lower compared with the total WA population (101).

### ANCESTRY

People born in the Philippines, who have one or both parents born there, or who were born elsewhere but have Filipino ancestors, may identify that they have Filipino ancestry. In 2011, more than three-quarters

(77%) of the Philippines-born identified that they had Filipino ancestry. Philippines-born Western Australians also reported that they had Spanish (4%), Chinese (3%), English (3%) and Australian (1%) ancestries. Most (97%) had one or both parents born overseas.

Small numbers and proportions of the WA population (20,403 or 0.9%) and the Australia-born (3972 or 0.3%) identified that they had Filipino ancestry.

Ancestry	Philippines-born		WA population 2011	Australia-born 2011
	2011	2006		
Self-identified ancestry	Total %	Total %	Total %	Total %
Filipino	90.7	88.0	0.9	0.3
Spanish	4.0	7.0	0.3	0.3
Chinese	3.3	5.5	3.4	1.2
English	3.0	2.7	37.9	41.4
Australian	1.4	2.3	32.3	49.7
One or both parents born overseas	97.2	96.5	56.2	35.2
Both parents born in Australia	0.1	2.0	43.8	64.8
One parent born in Australia	0.9	1.5	51.3	75.3

Language	Philippines-born					WA population 2011		
	2011			2006	2001	Male %	Female %	Total %
English proficiency	Male %	Female %	Total %	Total %	Total %	Male %	Female %	Total %
English only	12.1	22.4	18.0	34.8	39.6	78.8	79.8	79.3
Other language and English; very well or well	82.0	73.3	77.0	61.2	57.4	12.4	12.7	12.5
Other language and English; not well or not at all	4.2	3.2	3.6	2.4	1.8	1.8	2.4	2.1
<b>Main language spoken at home other than English (top two responses)*</b>								
Tagalog	50.0	42.2	45.5	30.9	52.0	0.3	0.4	0.4
Filipino	33.4	30.0	31.4	27.1	N/A**	0.2	0.3	0.3

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

\*\* N/A= Not available in the 2001 Census as Tagalog also included Filipino.

## LANGUAGES

In 2011, the majority (81%) of Philippines-born Western Australians reported speaking a language other than English (LOTE) at home, mainly Tagalog (46%) and Filipino (31%).

In 2011, more than three-quarters (77%) of the Philippines-born reported speaking a LOTE and speaking English very well or well, a larger proportion than in 2001 (57%).

Almost one-fifth (18%) spoke only English at home, less than half the proportion for 2001 (40%). A larger proportion of women (22%) than men (12%) spoke only English at home.

A small proportion (4%) of the Philippines-born reported speaking a LOTE and English not well or not at all.

## RELIGION

The religious affiliation of Philippines-born Western Australians was almost unchanged between 2001 and 2011. The majority (96%) of the Philippines-born identified with Christianity. Small proportions (1%) identified as having no religion or with Islam or Buddhism (less than 1% each). This contrasts with the general trend for 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

The settlement pattern for Philippines-born Western Australians remained stable between 2001 and 2011. In 2011, more than three-quarters (78%) lived in the Greater Perth Metropolitan Area and 22 per cent lived in non-metropolitan areas. This settlement pattern was the same as for the total WA population, of which 77 per cent lived in the Greater Perth Metropolitan Area and 22 per cent lived in non-metropolitan areas.

Within the Greater Perth Metropolitan Area, the Philippines-born lived mainly in the Local Government Areas (LGAs) of Cockburn (8%), Stirling (8%) and Gosnells (8%).

## Education

In 2011, almost three-quarters (71%) of Philippines-born people aged 15 years and over had completed Year 12 or an equivalent level of education. This was a larger proportion than in 2001 (62%) and compared with the total WA population (48%).

Between 2001 and 2011, there were increases in the proportions of the Philippines-born with qualifications at degree/tertiary level (from 28% to 35%) and at advanced diploma, diploma or certificate level (from 17% to 24%). The proportion of the Philippines-born with post-school qualifications (60%) was larger compared with the total WA population (45%).

A larger proportion of Philippines-born men (34%) than women (18%) held advanced diploma, diploma or certificate level qualifications.

Less than one per cent (0.3%) of Philippines-born Western Australians reported they had not attended school, which was comparable to the total WA population (0.6%).

Educational attainment	Philippines-born					WA population 2011		
	2011			2006	2001	Male %	Female %	Total %
Population (15+ years)	Male %	Female %	Total %	Total %	Total %	Male %	Female %	Total %
Degree/tertiary level	32.0	38.0	35.4	30.6	27.7	15.9	19.2	17.5
Advanced diploma/ diploma/ certificate	33.5	18.2	24.4	21.1	16.6	32.8	22.4	27.6
Completed Year 12/ equivalent	71.8	70.5	71.0	63.8	61.5	46.2	49.4	47.8
Did not attend school	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.9	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, three-quarters (75%) of Philippines-born Western Australians were in the labour force. This was larger than the 2001 proportion (62%) and compared with the total WA population (64%).

Between 2001 and 2011, there was an increase in the proportion of the Philippines-born employed (from 56% to 72%), and this was larger compared with the total WA population (61%). The proportion not in the labour force decreased (from 37% to 23%) and was smaller compared with the total WA population (29%).

The rate of unemployment decreased slightly (from 5% to 3%) and was comparable to the total WA population (3%).

Labour force	Philippines-born 2011					WA population 2011		
	2011			2006	2001	Male %	Female %	Total %
Population (15+ years)	Male %	Female %	Total %	Total %	Total %	Male %	Female %	Total %
Employed	85.2	63.2	72.2	66.5	56.3	66.7	55.3	61.0
Unemployed	2.1	4.0	3.2	3.0	5.4	3.2	2.9	3.0
Not in the labour force	11.1	31.2	23.0	27.9	36.8	22.7	36.1	29.4

A larger proportion of Philippines-born men (85%) than women (63%) were employed. A larger proportion of women (31%) than men (11%) were not in the labour force. These gender-based trends reflect those for the total WA 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 one-quarter of men (23%) were not in the labour force.

### OCCUPATION

The Philippines-born were mainly employed as technicians and trade workers (29%), labourers<sup>1</sup> (20%), community and personal service workers (12%), and professionals (12%).

Philippines-born men were mainly employed as technicians and trade workers (54%), labourers (12%), and professionals (11%). Philippines-born women were mainly employed as labourers (28%), community and personal service workers (21%), clerical and administrative workers (13%), and professionals (13%).

### BUSINESS OWNERSHIP

In 2011, three per cent of Philippines-born people were small or medium business owners. This proportion was comparable to 2006 (6%), but smaller when compared with the total WA population (15%).

Comparable proportions of the businesses owned by the Philippines-born employed between one and 19 people (50%) or were self-managed (44%). The remainder (4%) employed 20 or more people.

<sup>1</sup> 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 a miscellaneous category such as handypersons, recycling and rubbish collectors and vending machine attendants.



Weekly income	Philippines-born					WA population 2011		
	2011			2006*	2001**	Male %	Female %	Total %
Population (15+ years)	Male %	Female %	Total %	Total %	Total %	Male %	Female %	Total %
None	5.6	14.8	11.1	9.1	11.2	5.6	9.8	7.7
<\$300	5.8	16.7	12.0	17.8	34.2	11.7	19.8	15.7
\$300–999	35.5	46.2	41.9	48.4	33.5	29.3	41.9	35.6
\$1000 or more	48.3	15.0	28.6	12.0	4.5	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 (42%) of the Philippines-born were middle income earners with a weekly income of between \$300 and \$999. This proportion was larger compared with 2001 (34%) and all Western Australians (36%).

Between 2001 and 2011, the proportion of Philippines-born Western Australians earning a high income of \$1000 or more per week increased (from 5% to 29%), and was comparable to the total WA population (32%). The proportion of Philippines-born people earning less than \$300 per week decreased (from 34% to 12%), and was comparable to all Western Australians (16%).

A small proportion (11%) of the Philippines-born was without a weekly income, unchanged since 2001 (11%) and comparable to the WA population (8%).

Larger proportions of Philippines-born women were middle income earners (46%), or without an income (15%), than men (36% and 6%, respectively). A larger proportion of men (48%) than women (15%) were high income earners.

## HOUSING

In 2011, more than one-third (40%) of the Philippines-born owned their home compared with almost two-thirds (63%) of all Western Australians.

Among the Philippines-born, more than one-quarter (28%) lived in a home they were purchasing and 12 per cent lived in a home they fully owned. The comparative figures for the total WA population were 39 per cent and 24 per cent, respectively.

In 2011, more than half (53%) of the Philippines-born were living in rental accommodation, double the proportion of the total WA population (26%).

## Family

### MARITAL STATUS

In 2011, more than three-quarters (77%) of the Philippines-born aged 25 years and over were married, which was comparable to 2006 (72%) but larger compared with the total WA population (58%).

Between 2006 and 2011, the proportions of Philippines-born people who were divorced or separated, widowed, or who had never married were almost stable at eight per cent, four per cent and 11 per cent, respectively. The comparative proportions of the total WA population were 14 per cent, six per cent and 23 per cent, respectively.

### FAMILY COMPOSITION

In 2011, almost two-thirds (61%) of the Philippines-born lived in couple families with children, larger than in 2006 (49%), and compared with the total WA population (45%). Almost one-fifth (15%) lived in couple families without children, comparable to 2006 (20%), and also with the proportion for all Western Australians (20%).

In 2011, six per cent of the Philippines-born lived in one-parent families, which was comparable to 2006 (9%) and with the proportion of the total WA population (10%).

### LIVING ARRANGEMENTS

In 2011, half (50%) of the Philippines-born lived with a spouse or partner, a decrease since 2006 (56%), but larger compared with the proportion of all Western Australians (42%). A larger proportion of Philippines-born women (58%) than men (39%) were living with

Registered marital status (25+ years)	Philippines-born				WA population 2011		
	2011			2006	Male %	Female %	Total %
	Male %	Female %	Total %	Total %			
Married	80.0	74.5	76.8	71.6	59.0	57.1	58.1
Widowed	0.62	6.4	4.0	5.7	2.3	8.8	5.6
Divorced/separated	4.6	10.3	8.0	11.5	12.3	14.9	13.6
Never married	14.8	8.8	11.1	11.3	26.3	19.2	22.7

### Family composition (all ages)

Couple family with children	60.7	60.8	60.8	49.3	45.0	44.7	44.8
Couple family without children	8.9	19.7	15.0	20.3	19.4	20.3	19.8
One-parent family	3.2	7.4	5.6	9.3	7.8	12.0	9.9



a spouse. The proportion of Philippines-born people who lived with other family or non-family members had increased since 2006 (from 22% to 33%).

The proportion of the Philippines-born not living at home was similar in 2006 and 2011 (11% and 9%, respectively), and comparable to the proportion of all Western Australians (8%).

A smaller proportion of the Philippines-born lived alone compared with all Western Australians (7% and 12%, respectively). A larger proportion of Philippines-born women (10%) than men (4%) 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, 14 per cent of Philippines-born older people aged 65 years and over required such assistance. Almost one-quarter (23%) of Philippines-born older men required assistance, which was larger than the proportion of older women (17%) and older Western Australian men (13%). The proportions of women requiring assistance was similar for both the Philippines-born and total WA population of the same age (18%). For all other Philippine-born age groups the proportion was less than one per cent.

In 2011, seven per cent of the Philippines-born aged 15 years and over were providing unpaid care and/or assistance to a family member, a rate comparable to 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](mailto:harmony@omi.wa.gov.au)

Website: [www.omi.wa.gov.au](http://www.omi.wa.gov.au)