



Western Australian Community Profiles 2011 Census

Poland-born

Introduction

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

Poland-born community in Western Australia

Small numbers of the Poland-born migrated to Australia and Western Australia (WA) in the 19th century. The majority of the Poland-born arrived as migrants or refugees after World War II and throughout the Cold War period. Migration continued in waves between the 1960s and 1980s coinciding with the relaxation of Poland's emigration laws. Almost half of WA's Poland-born community arrived between 1981 and 1990.

POLAND-BORN COMMUNITY AT A GLANCE

- There were 5566 Poland-born people in WA in 2011, a smaller number than in 2006 (5729).
- There were 18,651 Western Australians with Polish ancestry.
- Almost half (44%) arrived in WA between 1981 and 1990.
- Most (86%) were Australian citizens.
- There were more women (3092) than men (2474) with a sex ratio of 80 men for every 100 women.
- Almost half of the Poland-born were adults aged between 45 and 64 years (42%). The smallest group was children aged between 0 and 14 years (1%).
- The median age of the Poland-born was 56 years.
- More than two-thirds (70%) of the Poland-born spoke English well and spoke a language other than English (LOTE) at home.

- ▣ The main language spoken by the Poland-born was Polish (76%).
- ▣ Most (91%) of the Poland-born lived in the Greater Perth Metropolitan Area.
- ▣ More than two-thirds (70%) of the Poland-born aged 15 years and over had completed Year 12 or an equivalent level of education, and more than half (56%) had a technical (31%) or degree/tertiary qualification (25%).
- ▣ More than half (54%) were employed and 42 per cent were not in the labour force.
- ▣ The Poland-born were employed mainly as professionals (27%), technicians and trade workers (19%), and community and personal service workers (11%).
- ▣ Almost three-quarters (71%) were middle or high income earners: 42 per cent had weekly income of between \$300 and \$999, and 29 per cent had a weekly income of \$1000 or more.
- ▣ Almost three-quarters (71%) of the Poland-born owned their home.
- ▣ More than half (58%) of the Poland-born aged 25 years and over were married and almost equal proportions lived in couple families with children (32%) or without children (33%).
- ▣ Almost one-third (32%) of the Poland-born aged 65 years and over required assistance with everyday living.

Migration, culture, ancestry, language and religion

In 2011, there were 5566 Poland-born Western Australians, representing 0.2 per cent of the State's total population. This number was smaller than in 2006 (5729). Most (86%) were Australian citizens.

ARRIVAL

Almost half (44%) of the Poland-born arrived in WA between 1981 and 1990. This compares with the State's total overseas-born population of which 12 per cent arrived during the same period.

AGE AND GENDER

The Poland-born population is composed of larger proportions of adults and older people, and smaller proportions of children and young people, than the total WA population. In 2011, more than one-third (42%) of the Poland-born were aged between 45 and 64 years and more than one-quarter (28%) were aged 65 years and over. The proportion of people aged between 45 and 64 years was unchanged since 2006 (41%), while the proportion of older people had decreased (from 32%). Both proportions were larger compared with the total WA population (25% and 12%, respectively).

Between 2001 and 2011, the proportion of the Poland-born aged between 15 and 24 years decreased (from 9% to 3%) while the proportion aged between 0 and 14 years was stable (2% and 1%, respectively). Both proportions were smaller compared with the total WA population (14% and 20%, respectively). The median age of the Poland-born was 56 years, compared with 36 years for the total WA population.



Age and gender profile	Poland-born					WA population 2011		
	2011			2006	2001	Male %	Female %	Total %
Age group	Male %	Female %	Total %	Total %	Total %			
0–14 years	1.4	0.8	1.1	1.1	2.1	20.1	19.2	19.7
15–24 years	4.1	2.7	3.3	5.1	9.1	14.1	13.3	13.7
25–44 years	25.3	26.1	25.7	21.6	22.8	29.4	28.9	29.1
45–64 years	43.0	40.8	41.9	40.7	33.7	25.1	25.3	25.2
65+ years	26.2	29.6	27.9	31.5	32.3	11.3	13.2	12.3
All (number)	2474	3092	5566	5729	6418	1,126,177	1,112,994	2,239,171
Sex ratio	80.0			84.8	90.1	101.2		

In 2011, there were more Poland-born women than men. The sex ratio (number of men per 100 women) was approximately 80. This was lower than in 2006 (85) and 2001 (90), and compared with the total WA population (101).

ANCESTRY

People born in Poland, who have one or both parents born there, or who were born elsewhere but have Polish ancestors, may identify that they have Polish ancestry. In 2011, 96 per cent of the Poland-

born identified that they had Polish ancestry. Poland-born Western Australians also reported that they had German (2%), English (1%), Australian (1%) and Ukrainian (1%) ancestries. Most (98%) had one or both parents born overseas.

Small numbers and proportions of the WA population (18,651 or 0.8%) and the Australia-born (10,553 or 0.7%) identified that they had Polish ancestry.

Ancestry	Poland-born		WA population 2011	Australia-born 2011
	2011	2006		
Self-identified ancestry	Total %	Total %	Total %	Total %
Polish	96.4	95.8	0.8	0.7
German	2.4	2.5	2.8	3.2
English	0.9	1.1	37.9	41.4
Australian	0.9	1.2	32.3	49.7
Ukrainian	0.7	0.8	0.01	0.1
One or both parents born overseas	98.2	98.3	56.2	35.2
Both parents born in Australia	0.1	*N/A	43.8	64.8
One parent born in Australia	0.6	0.4	51.3	75.3

* N/A= Not available. Ancestry data for parents was only available for individuals in the 2006 Census.

Language	Poland-born					WA population 2011		
	2011			2006	2001	Male %	Female %	Total %
English proficiency	Male %	Female %	Total %	Total %	Total %	Male %	Female %	Total %
English only	23.1	18.4	20.5	21.2	19.4	78.8	79.8	79.3
Other language and English; very well or well	68.5	70.4	69.6	65.9	68.2	12.4	12.7	12.5
Other language and English; not well or not at all	7.4	10.1	8.9	11.7	11.8	1.8	2.4	2.1
Main language spoken at home other than English (top two responses)*								
Polish	73.3	78.2	76.0	74.3	76.7	0.4	0.4	0.4
German	0.9	1.1	1.0	0.9	**N/A	0.2	0.3	0.3

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

** N/A= Not available.

LANGUAGES

In 2011, more than three-quarters (79%) of Poland-born Western Australians reported speaking a language other than English (LOTE) at home, mainly Polish (76%).

In 2011, more than two-thirds (70%) of the Poland-born reported speaking a LOTE and speaking English very well or well, a proportion that was unchanged since 2001 (68%).

More than one-fifth (21%) spoke only English at home, a proportion that was relatively unchanged since 2001 (19%). A larger proportion of men (23%) than women (18%) spoke English only at home.

Around nine per cent of the Poland-born reported speaking a LOTE and English not well or not at all.

RELIGION

The religious affiliation of Poland-born Western Australians was unchanged between 2001 and 2011. The majority of the Poland-born identified with Christianity (86%). Smaller proportions identified as having no religion (9%) or with Judaism, Buddhism or Islam (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

Between 2001 and 2011, the settlement pattern for Poland-born Western Australians remained stable. In 2011, most (91%) lived in the Greater Perth Metropolitan Area and nine per cent lived in non-metropolitan areas. Compared with the Poland-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, Poland-born people lived mainly in the Local Government Areas (LGAs) of Stirling (15%), Wanneroo (9%), Swan (7%) and Bayswater (7%).

Education

In 2011, more than two-thirds (70%) of Poland-born people aged 15 years and over had completed Year 12 or an equivalent level of education. This was a larger proportion than in 2006 (63%) and 2001 (58%), and compared with the total WA population (48%).

Between 2001 and 2011, there were increases in the proportions of the Poland-born with qualifications at degree/tertiary level (from 15% to 25%) and at advanced diploma, diploma or certificate level (from 27% to 31%). A larger proportion of Poland-born men (37%) than women (26%) had an advanced diploma; however, similar proportions held qualifications at degree/tertiary level (24% and 26%, respectively).

The proportion of the Poland-born with post-school qualifications (56%) was larger compared with the total WA population (45%).

A small proportion (1%) of Poland-born Western Australians reported that they had not attended school, comparable to the total WA population (0.6%).

Educational attainment	Poland-born					WA population 2011		
	2011			2006	2001	Male %	Female %	Total %
Population (15+ years)	Male %	Female %	Total %	Total %	Total %	Male %	Female %	Total %
Degree/tertiary level	24.2	25.6	25.0	20.3	14.9	15.9	19.2	17.5
Advanced diploma/diploma/certificate	36.6	25.9	30.7	28.9	26.7	32.8	22.4	27.6
Completed Year 12/equivalent	70.0	69.6	69.8	62.5	57.8	46.2	49.4	47.8
Did not attend school	0.8	1.1	1.0	1.2	0.6	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 half (56%) of Poland-born Western Australians were in the labour force. This was larger compared to 2001 (47%), but smaller compared with the proportion for the total WA population (64%).

Between 2001 and 2011, there was an increase in the proportion of the Poland-born employed (from 42% to 54%), but this was smaller compared with the total WA population (61%). The proportion not in the labour force decreased during the same period (from 51% to 42%), but was larger compared with the total WA population (29%).

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

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

Poland-born Western Australians were mainly employed as professionals (27%), technicians and trade workers (19%), community and personal service workers (11%), and clerical and administrative workers (10%). A comparable proportion of the total WA population was employed as technicians and trade workers (17%).

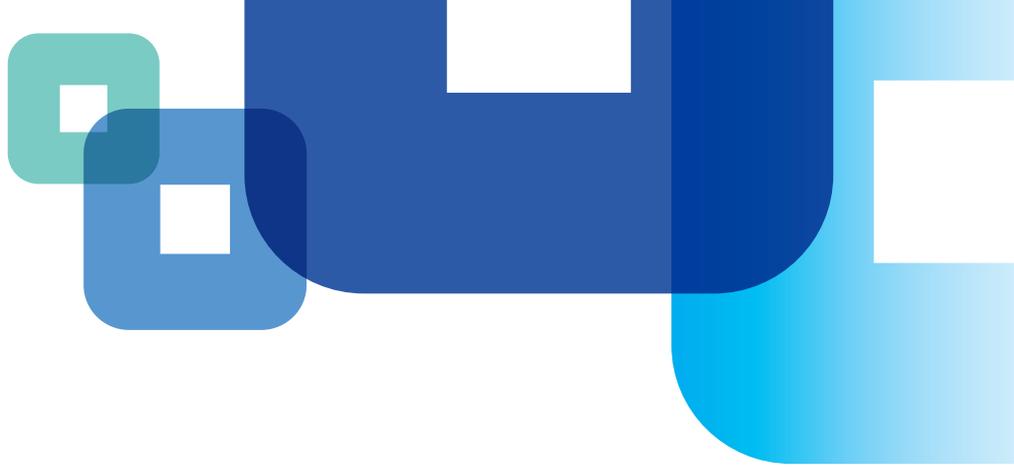
Poland-born men were mainly employed as technicians and trade workers (29%), professionals (26%), and machinery operators and drivers (12%). Poland-born women were mainly employed as professionals (29%), community and personal service workers (17%), and clerical and administrative workers (16%).

Labour force	Poland-born					WA population 2011		
	2011			2006	2001	Male %	Female %	Total %
Population (15+ years)	Male %	Female %	Total %	Total %	Total %	Male %	Female %	Total %
Employed	60.7	47.6	53.5	50.0	42.3	66.7	55.3	61.0
Unemployed	2.7	2.5	2.6	1.9	4.8	3.2	2.9	3.0
Not in the labour force	34.3	47.6	41.7	44.8	50.5	22.7	36.1	29.4

A larger proportion of Poland-born men (61%) than women (48%) were employed. A larger proportion of women than men were not in the labour force (48% and 34%, 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

BUSINESS OWNERSHIP

In 2011, almost one-quarter (22%) of the Poland-born were small or medium business owners, similar to 2006 (25%) but larger compared with the proportion of the total WA population (15%).



Weekly income	Poland-born					WA population 2011		
	2011			2006*	2001**	Male %	Female %	Total %
Population (15+ years)	Male %	Female %	Total %	Total %	Total %	Male %	Female %	Total %
None	3.8	8.5	6.4	4.7	4.8	5.6	9.8	7.7
<\$300	17.9	20.4	19.3	29.1	49.8	11.7	19.8	15.7
\$300–999	35.4	46.4	41.5	45.6	33.2	29.3	41.9	35.6
\$1000 or more	39.1	20.0	28.5	15.9	7.6	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.

More than half (52%) of the businesses owned by the Poland-born were self-managed and almost half (45%) employed between one and 19 people (45%). The remainder (2%) employed 20 or more people. A larger proportion of Poland-born men (28%) than women (15%) were business owners.

INCOME

More than one-third (42%) of the Poland-born were earning a weekly income of between \$300 and \$999. This proportion was larger than in 2001 (33%) and compared with all Western Australians (36%).

Between 2001 and 2011, the proportion of Poland-born Western Australians earning a high income of \$1000 or more per week increased (from 8% to 29%) and was comparable to the total WA population (32%). By contrast, the proportion of people earning a low income of less than \$300 per week decreased (from 50% to 19%) but was comparable to all Western Australians (16%).

A small proportion (6%) of the Poland-born were without a weekly income, unchanged since 2001 (5%) and comparable to the WA population (8%).

Larger proportions of Poland-born women were middle income earners (46%) or without an income (9%) than men (35% and 4%, respectively). A larger proportion of men (39%) than women (20%) were high income earners.

HOUSING

In 2011, almost three-quarters (71%) of the Poland-born owned their home compared with almost two-thirds (63%) of all Western Australians.

Among the Poland-born, more than one-third (38%) lived in a home they fully owned and one-third (33%) 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, 21 per cent of the Poland-born were living in rental accommodation, a smaller proportion compared with the total WA population (26%).

Family

MARITAL STATUS

In 2011, more than half (58%) of the Poland-born aged 25 years and over were married, comparable to 2006 (60%) and the same as the proportion of the total WA population (58%). A larger proportion of men (63%) than women (53%) were married.

Between 2006 and 2011, the proportion of the Poland-born who were divorced or separated was stable (around 16%) and comparable to the total WA population (14%). The proportion of the Poland-born who were widowed decreased (from 16% to 14%) but was larger compared with the State population (6%). A larger proportion of Poland-born women (21%) than men (5%) were widowed.

The proportion of Poland-born people who had never married was comparable in 2011 (12%) and 2006 (11%), but half the proportion of the Western Australian population (23%).

FAMILY COMPOSITION

In 2011, comparable proportions of the Poland-born lived in couple families with children (32%) and in couple families without children (33%); both were comparable to the proportions in 2006 (32% and 31%, respectively). These proportions compare with 45 per cent and 20 per cent, respectively, for the total WA population.

In 2011, seven per cent of the Poland-born lived in one-parent families, similar to 2006 (8%) and comparable to the proportion of the total WA population (10%). A larger proportion of women (10%) than men (4%) lived in one-parent families.

LIVING ARRANGEMENTS

In 2011, almost two-thirds (60%) of the Poland-born lived with a spouse or partner, similar to 2006 (57%), but larger compared with the proportion of all Western Australians (42%). A larger proportion of Poland-born

Registered marital status (25+ years)	Poland-born				WA population 2011		
	2011			2006	Male %	Female %	Total %
	Male %	Female %	Total %	Total %			
Married	63.4	53.2	57.7	60.0	59.0	57.1	58.1
Widowed	5.4	20.6	13.9	15.9	2.3	8.8	5.6
Divorced/separated	15.3	17.1	16.3	16.9	12.3	14.9	13.6
Never married	16.0	9.1	12.1	11.0	26.3	19.2	22.7
Family composition (all ages)							
Couple family with children	32.9	30.4	31.5	31.5	45.0	44.7	44.8
Couple family without children	35.3	31.4	33.1	31.4	19.4	20.3	19.8
One-parent family	4.2	9.9	7.4	8.2	7.8	12.0	9.9



men (63%) than women (57%) were living with a spouse.

The proportions of the Poland-born living with other family or non-family members was unchanged between 2006 and 2011 (10%), but was smaller compared with all Western Australians (34%). The proportion of the Poland-born that was not living at home (8%) was also unchanged since 2006 (7%) but the same as the proportion of all Western Australians (8%).

A larger proportion of the Poland-born lived alone compared with all Western Australians (23% and 12%, respectively). A larger proportion of Poland-born women (28%) than men (17%) 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, almost one-third (32%) of Poland-born Western Australians aged 65 years and over required such assistance. More than one-third (39%) of Poland-born women aged 65 years and over required assistance, a larger proportion than for men (24%). These proportions were larger compared with all Western Australian women and men of the same age (18% and 13%, respectively). Small proportions of the Poland-born aged between 0 and 14 years (5%) and between 15 and 64 years (4%) also required such assistance.

One-tenth (10%) of the Poland-born aged 15 years and over was providing unpaid care and/or assistance to a family member, a proportion comparable with that for the total WA population (9%).

More information

For more information and assistance, please contact:

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