



Western Australian Community Profiles 2011 Census Somalia-born

Introduction

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

Somalia-born community in Western Australia

The Somalia-born are a new and emerging community in Western Australia (WA). New and emerging communities are those with relatively small populations, of which the majority of members arrived after 1991. The majority (87% or 904 people) of the Somalia-born arrived after 1991, mainly as refugees under Australia's Humanitarian Entrant Program. Between 2001 and 2011, the Somalia-born community increased by 122%, making it one of WA's fastest growing communities.

SOMALIA-BORN COMMUNITY AT A GLANCE

- There were 1045 Somalia-born in WA, 66% more than in 2006 (from 629).
- There were 1871 Western Australians with Somali ancestry.
- The majority (86%) arrived in WA after 1991.
- There were more women (531) than men (514) with a sex ratio of 97 men for every 100 women.
- Almost half (45%) of the population was aged between 25 and 44 years and more than one-quarter (28%) was aged between 15 and 24 years.
- Three-quarters (75%) spoke English well and spoke a language other than English (LOTE) at home.
- The main languages spoken by the Somalia-born were Somali (87%) and Arabic (6%).

- ▣ Almost all (99%) lived in the Greater Perth Metropolitan Area.
- ▣ Half (50%) of the Somalia-born aged 15 years and over had completed Year 12 or an equivalent level of education, and more than one-quarter (26%) had a technical (17%) or university (9%) qualification.
- ▣ More than one-third (37%) were employed and almost half (47%) were not in the labour force.
- ▣ The Somalia-born were mainly employed as machinery operators and drivers (39%), community and personal service workers (13%) and labourers (12%).
- ▣ More than two-thirds (68%) were medium or low income earners. Thirty nine per cent earned between \$300 and \$999 per week, and 29% earned less than \$300 per week.
- ▣ Most (81%) lived in rental accommodation and one-tenth (10%) owned their home.
- ▣ More than two-thirds (69%) of the Somalia-born aged 25 years and over were married and more than half (55%) lived in couple families with children.
- ▣ One-quarter (26%) of the Somalia-born aged 65 years and over required assistance with everyday living.

Migration, culture, ancestry, language and religion

In 2011, there were 1045 Somalia-born Western Australians, representing 0.05% of the State's total population. This group grew by 66% (from 629) between 2006 and 2011. Two-thirds (66%) were Australian citizens.

ARRIVAL

The majority (87%) of the Somalia-born population arrived in WA after 1991—42% between 1991 and 2000 and 45% between 2001 and 2010. They migrated mainly as refugees under Australia's Humanitarian Program. This compares with the State's total overseas-born population, of which 11% and 28%, respectively, arrived during the same periods.

AGE AND GENDER

The Somalia-born population was composed of larger proportions of young people and young adults, but smaller proportions of older people and children, compared with the total WA population. In 2011, almost half (45%) were aged between 25 and 44 years, and more than one-quarter (28%) were aged between 15 and 24 years. These proportions were larger than in 2001 (39% and 24%, respectively) and compared with the total WA population (29% and 14%, respectively).

In contrast, the proportions of the Somalia-born aged over 65 years (2%) and between 0 and 14 years (6%) were smaller compared with those for the total WA population (12% and 20%, respectively).

Between 2001 and 2011, the proportion of Somalia-born aged between 0 and 14 years decreased (from 28% to 6%) while the proportions of all other age groups increased.



Age and gender profile	Somalia-born					WA population 2011		
	2011			2006	2001	Male %	Female %	Total %
Age group	Male %	Female %	Total %	Total %	Total %	Male %	Female %	Total %
0–14 years	6.6	5.8	6.2	16.2	28.3	20.1	19.2	19.7
15–24 years	26.5	29.6	28.0	30.2	23.8	14.1	13.3	13.7
25–44 years	42.6	48.2	45.4	40.1	38.5	29.4	28.9	29.1
45–64 years	22.2	15.5	18.9	11.0	8.8	25.1	25.3	25.2
65+ years	2.1	0.9	1.5	2.5	0.6	11.3	13.2	12.3
All (number)	514	531	1045	629	470	1,126,177	1,112,994	2,239,171
Sex ratio			96.8	83.4	NA			101.2

In 2011, there were more Somalia-born women than men. The sex ratio (number of men per 100 women) was 97. This was higher than in 2006 (83) but lower compared with the total WA population (101).

ANCESTRY

People who were born in Somalia, who have one or both parents born there, or who were born elsewhere but have Somali ancestors, may identify that they have Somali ancestry. In 2011, the majority (92%) of the

Somalia-born identified as having Somali ancestry, a larger proportion than in 2006 (71%).

Somalia-born Western Australians also identified as having Australian (3%), English (3%), Ethiopian (0.6%) and Kenyan (0.3%) ancestry. Most (94%) had one or both parents born overseas.

In 2011, a small number and proportion of Western Australians (1871 or 0.1%) and the Australia-born population (548 or 0.04%) identified as having Somali ancestry.

Ancestry	Somalia-born		WA population 2011	Australia-born 2011
	2011	2006		
Self-identified ancestry	Total %	Total %	Total %	Total %
Somali	92.4	90.0	0.1	0
Australian	3.4	3.1	32.3	49.6
English	2.5	2.4	37.9	41.3
Ethiopian	0.6	0.0	0.1	0.0*
Kenyan	0.3	0.0	0.0*	0.0*
One or both parents born overseas	94.0	93.9	56.2	35.2
Both parents born in Australia	0.3	0.0	43.8	64.8
One parent born in Australia	0.3	0.0	51.3	75.3

* The proportions are listed as zero because of the small numbers identifying with these ancestries. In 2011, 1305 and 720 Western Australians, and 284 and 220 Australia-born, identified as having Ethiopian and Kenyan ancestries, respectively.

Language	Somalia-born					WA population 2011		
	2011			2006	2001	Male %	Female %	Total %
English proficiency	Male %	Female %	Total %	Total %	Total %	Male %	Female %	Total %
English only	5.1	5.1	5.1	4.3	4.0	78.8	79.8	79.3
Other language and English; very well or well	82.3	67.8	74.9	77.4	69.1	12.4	12.7	12.5
Other language and English; not well or not at all	9.3	24.7	17.1	15.3	21.0	1.8	2.4	2.1
Main language spoken at home other than English (top two responses)*								
Somali	85.0	87.9	86.5	82.5	87.9	0.4	0.4	0.4
Arabic	6.4	5.6	6.0	6.5	6.2	0.6	0.5	0.5

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

LANGUAGES

In 2011, most (92%) Somalia-born Western Australians reported speaking a language other than English (LOTE) at home, mainly Somali (87%) and Arabic (6%). The proportion of LOTE speakers had remained stable since 2001.

In 2011, three-quarters (75%) of the Somalia-born reported speaking a LOTE and speaking English well or very well. This was a larger proportion than in 2001 (69%).

A small proportion (5%) spoke only English at home, which was consistent since 2001.

A larger proportion of men (82%) reported a high level of English proficiency than women (68%), while a larger proportion of women (25%) reported lower levels of English proficiency than men (9%).

The proportion of the Somalia-born who reported speaking a LOTE and English not well or not at all decreased slightly between 2001 (21%) and 2011 (17%).

RELIGION

In 2011, most (96%) of the Somalia-born identified with Islam. A small proportion of the community reported an affiliation with Christianity (1%) or as having no religion (0.3%); these proportions were unchanged since 2001.

This was different compared with the total WA population of which more than half identified with Christianity (58%), one-quarter (26%) as having no religion and 2% with Islam.



Geographic distribution

Between 2001 and 2011, the settlement pattern for Somalia-born Western Australians remained stable. Since 2001, almost all (99%) of the Somalia-born have lived in the Greater Perth Metropolitan Area and one per cent in non-metropolitan areas. Compared with the Somalia-born, a smaller proportion of the total WA population (77%) lived in the Greater Perth Metropolitan Area and a larger proportion (22%) lived in non-metropolitan areas.

Within the Greater Perth Metropolitan Area, the Somalia-born lived mainly in the Local Government Areas of Stirling (13%), Wanneroo (11%) and Gosnells (10%).

Education

In 2011, half (50%) of the Somalia-born aged 15 years and over had completed Year 12 or an equivalent level of education. This was a larger proportion than in 2001 (39%) but was comparable to the total WA population (48%). A larger proportion of Somalia-born men (60%) than women (41%) had this level of education.

Between 2001 and 2011, there was an increase in the proportions of the Somalia-born with qualifications at advanced diploma, diploma and certificate level (from 10% to 17%), while the proportion with a degree or tertiary level qualification was stable (7% and 9%). A larger proportion of Somalia-born men (13%) than women (5%) had a degree level qualification, while a larger proportion of women (19%) than men (15%) had a technical qualification. A larger proportion of Western Australians held post-school qualifications than the Somalia-born (45% and 28%, respectively).

In 2011, 10% of Somalia-born Western Australians reported that they had not attended school, a larger proportion compared with the total WA population (0.6%). A larger proportion of Somalia-born women (16%) had not attended school than men (5%).

Educational attainment	Somalia-born					WA population 2011		
	2011			2006	2001	Male %	Female %	Total %
Population (15+ years)	Male %	Female %	Total %	Total %	Total %	Male %	Female %	Total %
Degree/tertiary level	12.8	5.4	9.0	6.8	7.4	15.9	19.2	17.5
Advanced diploma/diploma/certificate	15.3	19.1	17.3	13.1	9.7	32.8	22.4	27.6
Completed Year 12/equivalent	59.5	40.6	49.8	47.9	38.7	46.2	49.4	47.8
Did not attend school	5.0	15.5	10.4	11.2	8.2	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, almost half (48%) of Somalia-born Western Australians were in the labour force. This was a larger proportion than in 2006 (39%) and 2001 (34%), but smaller compared with the total WA population (64%).

Between 2001 and 2011, there was an increase in the proportion of the Somalia-born who were employed (from 16% to 37%), and decreases in the proportions of people not in the labour force (from 65% to 47%) and unemployed (from 18% to 11%). The proportions of the Somalia-born who were unemployed and who were not in the labour force were larger compared with those of the WA population (29% and 3%, respectively), while the proportion of those who were employed was smaller (61%).

The proportion of Somalia-born men (57%) who were employed was three times larger than that of women (18%). A larger proportion of women (66%) were not in the labour force compared with men (26%). These gender-based trends reflect those for the total Western Australian population of which a larger proportion of men (67%) than women (55%) were employed, and a larger proportion of women (36%) than men (23%) were not in the labour force.

OCCUPATION

The Somalia-born community were mainly employed as machinery operators and drivers (39%), community and personal service workers (13%) and labourers (12%)¹. The occupation groups and rates were different compared with those for the total WA population, of which smaller proportions were employed as machinery operators and drivers (8%) and community and personal service workers (9%).

Somalia-born men were mainly employed as machinery operators and drivers (51%) and labourers (11%). Somalia-born women were mainly employed as community and personal service workers (40%), professionals (20%) and labourers (16%).

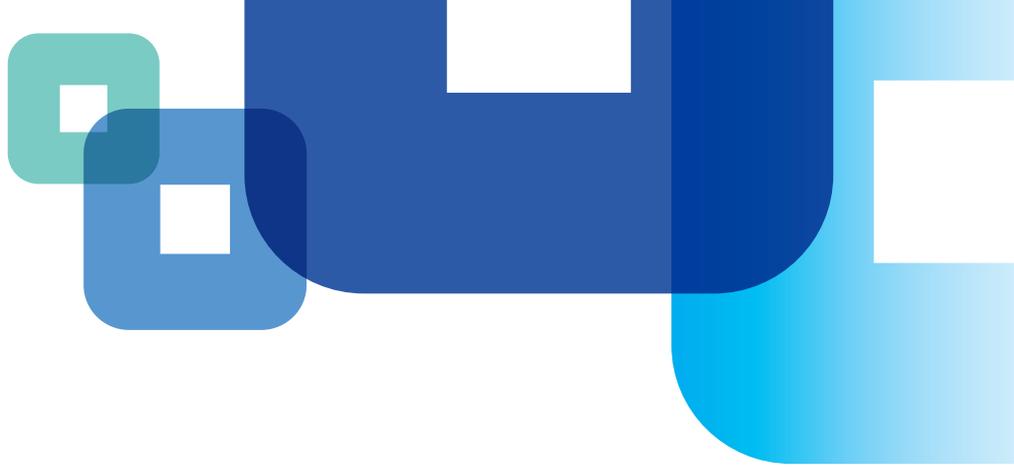
BUSINESS OWNERSHIP

In 2011, almost one-third (30%) of the Somalia-born were small or medium business owners. This was a slightly larger proportion than in 2006 (26%) and was double the proportion of the total WA population (15%).

The majority (79%) of businesses owned by the Somalia-born were self-managed, 18% employed between one and 19 people and the remainder (3%) employed 20 people or more.

Labour force	Somalia-born					WA population 2011		
	2011			2006	2001	Male %	Female %	Total %
Population (15+ years)	Male %	Female %	Total %	Total %	Total %	Male %	Female %	Total %
Employed	57.2	18.0	37.1	29.4	15.9	66.7	55.3	61.0
Unemployed	11.9	10.4	11.1	10.1	18.2	3.2	2.9	3.0
Not in the labour force	26.4	66.3	46.9	54.1	65.0	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	Somalia-born					WA population 2011		
	2011			2006*	2001**	Male %	Female %	Total %
Population (15+ years)	Male %	Female %	Total %	Total %	Total %	Male %	Female %	Total %
None	8.4	14	11.2	10	4.2	5.6	9.8	7.7
< \$300	27.8	33.1	29.2	31.8*	61.8	11.7	19.8	15.7
\$300–\$999	40.7	36.7	38.7	25.6	21	29.3	41.9	35.6
\$1000 or more	11.5	1.2	6.2	3.8	0.9	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.
 ** The 2001 Census included negative income under 'no income'.

A larger proportion of Somalia-born men (34%) than women (14%) were business owners.

INCOME

More than two-thirds (68%) of Somalia-born Western Australians were medium and low income earners. In 2011, 39% earned a weekly income of between \$300 and \$999. This was a larger proportion than in 2006 (26%) and 2001 (21%), but comparable to the total WA population (36%). Between 2001 and 2011, the proportion of people earning less than \$300 halved (from 62% to 29%), but was larger compared with the total WA population (16%).

Between 2001 and 2011, there was an increase in the proportion of the Somalia-born earning \$1000 or more per week (from 1% to 6%), but this was smaller compared with the total WA population (32%).

Between 2001 and 2011, there was an increase in the proportion of the Somalia-born without a weekly income (from 4% to 11%), which was comparable to the total WA population (8%).

A larger proportion of Somalia-born women were without an income (14%) or earning a low income (33%) than men (8% and 28%, respectively). A larger proportion of men (11%) were high income earners than women (1%).

HOUSING

In 2011, 10% of the Somalia-born owned their home, a smaller proportion compared with all Western Australians (63%).

Among the Somalia-born, 3% lived in a home they fully owned and 6% lived in a home they were purchasing. The comparative figures for the total WA population were 24% and 39%, respectively.

More than three-quarters (81%) of the Somalia born lived in rental accommodation. This was three-times larger than the proportion of the total WA population (26%)

Family

MARITAL STATUS

In 2011, more than two-thirds (69%) of the Somalia-born aged 25 years and over were married. This was comparable to 2006 (68%), but larger compared with the total WA population (58%). A larger proportion of Somalia-born men (74%) were married than women (64%).

Between 2006 and 2011, there was little change in the proportions of the Somalia-born who were widowed (6% and 3%, respectively), or divorced or separated (16% and 14%, respectively). Both proportions were comparable to those of the total WA population (6% and 14%, respectively).

A larger proportion of Somalia-born women (22%) than men (6%) were divorced or separated.

FAMILY COMPOSITION

In 2011, more than half (55%) of the Somalia-born aged 25 years and over lived in couple families with children. This proportion was comparable to 2006 (52%) but was larger compared with the total WA population (45%).

A small proportion (5%) of the Somalia-born lived in couple families without children, almost unchanged since 2006 (4%) but smaller compared with the total WA population (20%).

One-quarter (25%) of the Somalia-born lived in one-parent families, which was a larger proportion compared with the total WA population (10%). A larger proportion of Somalia-born women (32%) than men (17%) lived in one-parent families.

Registered marital status (25+ years)	Somalia-born				WA population 2011		
	2011			2006	Male %	Female %	Total %
	Male %	Female %	Total %	Total %			
Married	73.5	64.1	68.8	67.8	59.0	57.1	58.1
Widowed	0.0	6.1	3.1	5.9	2.3	8.8	5.6
Divorced/separated	6.4	22.2	14.2	15.7	12.3	14.9	13.6
Never married	20.1	9.3	14.7	11.9	26.3	19.2	22.7
Family composition (all ages)							
Couple family with children	56.2	54.0	55.1	52.0	45.0	44.7	44.8
Couple family without children	4.7	5.3	5.0	4.3	19.4	20.3	19.8
One-parent family	16.9	32.0	24.6	28.6	7.8	12.0	9.9



LIVING ARRANGEMENTS

In 2011, almost half (44%) of the Somalia-born were living with a spouse or partner, which was a larger proportion than in 2006 (33%) but comparable to the total WA population (42%).

More than one-third (38%) lived with other family or non-family members, a smaller proportion than in 2006 (48%), but comparable to the total WA population (34%). Larger proportions of men were living with family or non-family members (41%) or not living at home (9%) than women (34% and 2%, respectively).

The proportion of the Somalia-born (13%) living alone was comparable to the total WA population (12%). A larger proportion of Somalia-born women (20%) than men (6%) was 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, one-quarter (26%) of the Somalia-born aged 65 years and over required such assistance, and all were women. This was a larger proportion compared with the total WA population (16%). For all other age groups, the proportion of Somalia-born requiring assistance was around 2%.

In 2011, 11% of the Somalia-born aged 15 years and over was providing unpaid care and/or assistance to a family member, which was comparable to the rate for 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