



Western Australian Community Profiles 2011 Census

Vietnam-born

Introduction

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

Vietnam-born community in Western Australia

The first notable migration of the Vietnam-born to Australia and Western Australia (WA) began in the mid-1970s with the arrival of refugees after the Vietnam War and during the Cambodia–Vietnam War (1975–1989). Between 1981 and 1990, 4642 Vietnam-born people arrived in WA, mainly as humanitarian entrants. More recent arrivals have come mainly through Australia's Family Stream visa program, or as skilled migrants.

VIETNAM-BORN COMMUNITY AT A GLANCE

- There were 12,714 Vietnam-born people in WA in 2011, a larger number than in 2006 (10,489).
- There were 15,956 Western Australians with Vietnamese ancestry.
- More than one-third (37%) arrived in WA between 1981 and 1990.
- There were more women (6823) than men (5891) with a sex ratio of 86 men for every 100 women.
- Almost half (46%) of the Vietnam-born were young adults aged between 25 and 44 years and the smallest group were children aged between 0 and 14 years (3%).
- The median age of the Vietnam-born was 41 years.

- ▣ More than half of the Vietnam-born spoke English well (56%) and spoke a language other than English (LOTE) at home.
- ▣ The main languages spoken by Vietnam-born people were Vietnamese (84%) and Cantonese (9%).
- ▣ Most (96%) lived in the Greater Perth Metropolitan Area.
- ▣ More than half (54%) of the Vietnam-born aged 15 years and over had completed Year 12 or an equivalent level of education, and more than one-quarter had a university (15%) or technical qualification (14%).
- ▣ Almost two-thirds (62%) were employed and close to one-third (32%) were not in the labour force.
- ▣ The Vietnam-born were employed mainly as technicians and trade workers (19%), managers (16%) and labourers (16%).
- ▣ Almost two-thirds (65%) were medium or low income earners; 42 per cent earned between \$300 and \$999, and 23 per cent less than \$300 per week. A smaller proportion (12%) had no weekly income.
- ▣ Three-quarters (76%) of the Vietnam-born owned their home.
- ▣ Almost three-quarters (71%) of the Vietnam-born aged 25 years and over were married and more than half (58%) lived in couple families with children.
- ▣ More than one-quarter (28%) of the Vietnam-born aged 65 years and over required assistance with everyday living.

Migration, culture, ancestry, language and religion

In 2011, there were 12,714 Vietnam-born Western Australians, representing 0.6 per cent of the State's total population. This group had grown by 21 per cent (from 10,489) since 2006. More than three-quarters (79%) were Australian citizens.

ARRIVAL

More than one-third (37%) of the Vietnam-born arrived in WA between 1981 and 1990 mainly as humanitarian entrants. This compares with the State's total overseas-born population of which 12 per cent arrived during the same period.

AGE AND GENDER

The Vietnam-born population is composed of a larger proportion of adults and a smaller proportion of children than the total WA population. In 2011, almost half (46%) of the Vietnam-born were aged between 25 and 44 years. This was a smaller proportion than in 2001 (51%) and larger compared to the total WA population (29%).

More than one-third (36%) of the Vietnam-born were aged between 45 and 64 years, a larger proportion than in 2001 (23%) and compared with the WA population (25%). The median age of the Vietnam-born was 41 years, compared with 36 years for the total WA population.

The proportion of the Vietnam-born aged between 15 and 24 years halved (16% to 8%) between 2001 and 2011, but was comparable to all Western Australians (14%). The proportions of Vietnam-born children aged between 0 and 14 years and older people aged 65 years and over were stable (3% and 7%, respectively), but smaller compared with the total WA population (20% and 12%, respectively).



Age and gender profile	Vietnam-born					WA population 2011		
	2011			2006	2001	Male %	Female %	Total %
Age group	Male %	Female %	Total %	Total %	Total %			
0–14 years	3.6	2.9	3.2	2.4	2.7	20.1	19.2	19.7
15–24 years	7.5	8.5	8.0	8.8	15.6	14.1	13.3	13.7
25–44 years	44.1	47.9	46.0	51.0	51.3	29.4	28.9	29.1
45–64 years	37.6	33.4	35.5	30.7	23.4	25.1	25.3	25.2
65+ years	7.2	7.3	7.3	7.1	7.0	11.3	13.2	12.3
All (number)	5891	6823	12,714	10,489	10,125	1,126,177	1,112,994	2,239,171
Sex ratio			86.3	92.8	97.0			101.2

In 2011, there were more Vietnam-born women than men. The sex ratio (number of men per 100 women) was estimated at 86. This was lower than in 2001 (97) and compared with the total WA population (101).

ANCESTRY

People who were born in Vietnam, who have one or both parents born there, or who were born elsewhere but have Vietnamese ancestors, may identify that they have Vietnamese ancestry. In 2011, the majority (81%) of

Vietnam-born Western Australians identified as having Vietnamese ancestry.

Almost one-fifth (19%) of the Vietnam-born identified as having Chinese ancestry and smaller proportions identified as having English (2%), Australian (2%) and Khmer (0.3%) ancestries.

Small numbers and proportions of the WA population (15,956 or 0.7%) and the Australia-born (5428 or 0.4%) identified that they have Vietnamese ancestry.

Ancestry	Vietnam-born		WA population 2011	Australia-born 2011
	2011	2006		
Self-identified ancestry	Total %	Total %	Total %	Total %
Vietnamese	81.1	77.5	0.7	0.4
Chinese	19.1	22.7	3.4	1.2
English	2.2	2.3	37.9	41.3
Australian	1.5	1.5	32.3	49.6
Khmer	0.3	0.3	0.0*	0.0*
One or both parents born overseas	96.7	96.7	56.2	35.2
Both parents born in Australia	0.2	NA	43.8	64.8
One parent born in Australia	1.1	1.0	51.3	75.3

* The proportions are listed as zero because of the small numbers identifying with this ancestry. There were 1574 Western Australians and 559 Australia-born people who identified as having Khmer ancestry.

Language	Vietnam-born					WA population 2011		
	2011			2006	2001	Male %	Female %	Total %
English proficiency	Male %	Female %	Total %	Total %	Total %	Male %	Female %	Total %
English only	4.2	4.7	4.4	3.8	3.3	78.8	79.8	79.3
Other language and English; very well or well	62.4	50.5	56.0	56.0	55.5	12.4	12.7	12.5
Other language and English; not well or not at all	31.9	43.8	38.3	38.8	40.0	1.8	2.4	2.1
Main language spoken at home other than English (top two responses)*								
Vietnamese	83.1	83.8	83.5	82.0	81.5	0.7	0.8	0.7
Cantonese	8.6	8.8	8.7	10.8	11.5	0.7	0.9	0.8

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

LANGUAGES

In 2011, most (94%) Vietnam-born Western Australians reported speaking a language other than English (LOTE) at home, mainly Vietnamese (84%) and Cantonese (9%).

More than half (56%) of the Vietnam-born reported speaking a LOTE and English well or very well. This was unchanged since 2001 but larger compared with the total WA population (13%).

A small proportion of the Vietnam-born (4%) spoke only English at home, almost unchanged since 2001 (3%). A larger proportion of men (62%) than women (51%) reported a high level of English proficiency, while a larger proportion of women (44%) than men (32%) reported lower levels of English proficiency.

The proportion of the Vietnam-born (38%) who reported speaking a LOTE and English not well or not at all had remained relatively stable between 2011 and 2001.

RELIGION

In 2011, more than half (53%) of the Vietnam-born reported an affiliation with Buddhism, more than one-quarter (29%) with Christianity and 13% as having no religion. A fraction identified with Islam (0.5%) or Hinduism (0.1%). Religious affiliation was relatively unchanged since 2001.

This stability differed from 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 Vietnam-born Western Australians was stable. In 2011, most (96%) lived in the Greater Perth Metropolitan Area and four per cent lived in non-metropolitan areas. Compared with the Vietnam-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 Vietnam-born lived mainly in the Local Government Areas (LGAs) of Stirling (22%), Wanneroo (21%), Swan (13%) and Bayswater (12%).

Education

In 2011, more than half (54%) of the Vietnam-born aged 15 years and over had completed Year 12 or an equivalent level of education. This was a larger proportion than in 2001 (44%) and compared with the total WA population (48%).

Between 2001 and 2011, there were slight increases in the proportions of the Vietnam-born with qualifications at degree/tertiary level (from 10% to 15%) and at advanced diploma, diploma or certificate level (from 10% to 14%). A larger proportion of all Western Australians (45%) than the Vietnam-born (28%) held post-school qualifications.

A small proportion (8%) of Vietnam-born people reported that they had not attended school. This had decreased since 2001 (from 13%) but was larger compared with the total WA population (0.6%).

Educational attainment	Vietnam-born					WA population 2011		
	2011			2006	2001	Male %	Female %	Total %
Population (15+ years)	Male %	Female %	Total %	Total %	Total %	Male %	Female %	Total %
Degree/tertiary level	15.8	13.8	14.7	13.3	9.8	15.9	19.2	17.5
Advanced diploma/ diploma/ certificate	14.6	12.7	13.6	11.5	9.8	32.8	22.4	27.6
Completed Year 12/ equivalent	56.3	52.0	54.0	49.4	43.9	46.2	49.4	47.8
Did not attend school	6.9	8.7	7.9	10.1	12.8	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 the Vietnam-born were in the labour force. This rate was comparable to the rate for 2001 (63%) and to that for the total WA population (64%).

Between 2001 and 2011, the proportion of Vietnam-born people who were employed increased (from 53% to 62%), the proportion not in the labour force was relatively unchanged (32%), and the rate of unemployment decreased (from 10% to 4%). These figures were comparable to those for the total WA population (61%, 29% and 3%, respectively).

A larger proportion of Vietnam-born men (71%) than women (54%) were employed. The proportion of women who were not in the labour force was larger than men (40% and 23%, 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%) but less than a quarter of men (23%) were not in the labour force.

OCCUPATION

The Vietnam-born were employed mainly as technicians and trade workers (19%), managers (16%), labourers¹ (16%) and professionals (13%). A comparable proportion of all Western Australians were employed as technicians and trade workers (17%).

Vietnam-born men were employed mainly as technicians and trade workers (27%), clerical and administrative workers (23%), managers (17%) and labourers (16%). Vietnam-born women were employed mainly as community and personal service workers (16%), labourers (16%) and managers (15%).

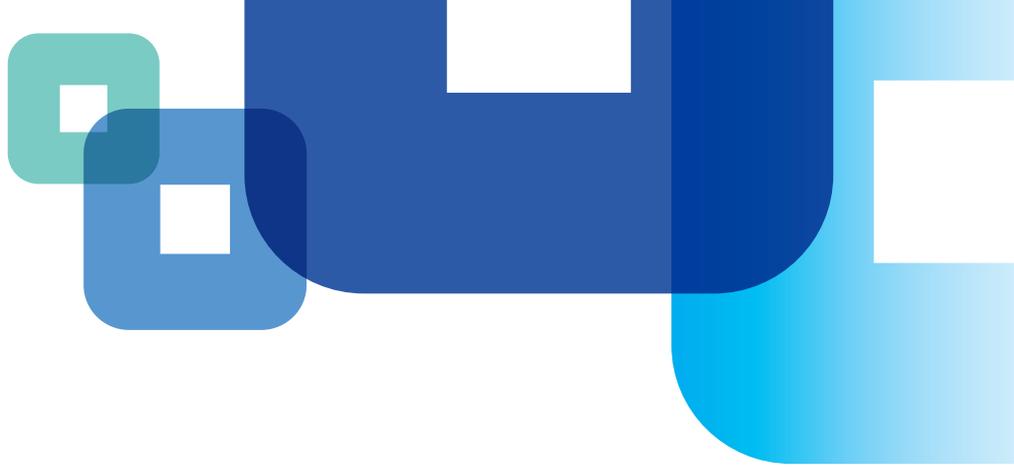
BUSINESS OWNERSHIP

In 2011, more than one-quarter (27%) of Vietnam-born people were small or medium business owners. This proportion was relatively unchanged since 2006, but larger compared with the total WA population (15%).

Almost two-thirds (62%) of businesses owned by the Vietnam-born employed between one and 19 people, one-third (34%) were self-managed, and the remainder (2%) employed 20 or more people.

Labour force	Vietnam-born					WA population 2011		
	2011			2006	2001	Male %	Female %	Total %
Population (15+ years)	Male %	Female %	Total %	Total %	Total %	Male %	Female %	Total %
Employed	71.0	54.0	61.8	60.0	53.2	66.7	55.3	61.0
Unemployed	4.1	4.4	4.3	4.4	9.8	3.2	2.9	3.0
Not in the labour force	23.3	39.6	32.1	33.4	35.8	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 a miscellaneous category such as handypersons, recycling and rubbish collectors and vending machine attendants.



Weekly income	Vietnam-born					WA population 2011		
	2011			2006*	2001**	Male %	Female %	Total %
Population (15+ years)	Male %	Female %	Total %	Total %	Total %	Male %	Female %	Total %
None	7.8	15.6	12.0	9.4	7.0	5.6	9.8	7.7
< \$300	17.8	26.8	22.6	26.6	42.7	11.7	19.8	15.7
\$300–999	43.4	40.7	41.9	47.7	42.0	29.3	41.9	35.6
\$1000 or more	25.8	12.6	18.7	10.8	3.7	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 (42%) of the Vietnam-born were middle income earners with a weekly income between \$300 and \$900. This proportion was smaller than in 2006 (48%) but larger compared with all Western Australians (36%).

Between 2001 and 2011, the proportion of Vietnam-born Western Australians earning less than \$300 per week almost halved (from 43% to 23%), while those earning a high income of \$1000 or more increased (from 4% to 19%). The comparative figures for the total WA population were 16% and 32%, respectively. A larger proportion of men (26%) than women (13%) were high income earners.

In 2011, 12 per cent of the Vietnam-born were without a weekly income, a larger proportion than in 2001 (7%) but comparable to the total WA population (8%). A larger proportion of women (16%) than men (8%) were without a weekly income.

HOUSING

In 2011, two-thirds (66%) of the Vietnam-born owned their home, which was comparable to the figure for all Western Australians (63%).

More than one-quarter (28%) of the Vietnam-born lived in a home they fully owned and almost half (48%) 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 Vietnam-born lived in rental accommodation, compared with one-quarter (26%) of the total WA population.

Family

MARITAL STATUS

In 2011, almost three-quarters (71%) of Vietnam-born people aged 25 years and over were married. This was almost unchanged since 2006 (70%), but larger compared with the total WA population (58%).

The proportions of the Vietnam-born widowed (3%), divorced or separated (11%) or never married (15%) also remained almost unchanged since 2006. The rates of widowhood and divorce were comparable to those for all Western Australians (6% and 14%, respectively), while the proportion who had never married was larger (23%).

Larger proportions of Vietnam-born women were widowed (5%) or divorced (13%) than men (1% and 8%, respectively).

FAMILY COMPOSITION

In 2011, more than half (58%) of the Vietnam-born were living in couple families with children. This was almost unchanged since 2006 (60%) but larger compared with the proportion of all Western Australians (45%).

Similar proportions of the Vietnam-born and the total WA population were living in couple families without children (18% and 20%, respectively) and in one-parent families (10%).

A larger proportion of Vietnam-born women (14%) than men (6%) lived in one-parent families.

Registered marital status (25+ years)	Vietnam-born				WA population 2011		
	2011			2006	Male %	Female %	Total %
	Male %	Female %	Total %	Total %			
Married	74.3	68.2	71.0	69.8	59.0	57.1	58.1
Widowed	1.0	5.3	2.9	3.6	2.3	8.8	5.6
Divorced/separated	8.2	12.5	10.5	9.6	12.3	14.9	13.6
Never married	16.6	14.1	15.2	17.0	26.3	19.2	22.7
Family composition (all ages)							
Couple family with children	60.3	56.0	58.0	59.9	45.0	44.7	44.8
Couple family without children	17.1	18.2	17.7	15.8	19.4	20.3	19.8
One-parent family	5.8	13.5	9.9	10.7	7.8	12.0	9.9



LIVING ARRANGEMENTS

In 2011, almost two-thirds (65%) of the Vietnam-born lived with a spouse or partner. This proportion was relatively unchanged since 2006 (64%) but larger compared with the total WA population (42%).

Almost one-quarter (21%) of the Vietnam-born lived with other family or non-family members, a figure that was unchanged since 2006 but smaller compared with the proportion of all Western Australians (34%).

Comparable proportions of the Vietnam-born and the total WA population were living alone (10% and 12%, respectively) or not living at home (5% and 8%, respectively).

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, more than one-quarter (28%) of the Vietnam-born aged 65 years and over required such assistance. A larger proportion of older women (33%) than men (21%) required assistance. This gender-based trend was similar to that for the total WA population of which a larger proportion of older women (18%) than older men (13%) required assistance. For all other age groups the proportion was around two per cent.

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

More information

For more information and assistance, please contact:

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