



Western Australian Community Profiles 2006 Census

Italy-born

Population

Italian migration to Western Australia (WA) began in the late 1880s, but the most significant period of migration started in the 1950s. In 2006, there were 20,942 Italy-born people in Western Australia, 9.2% less than in 2001. In 2006, Italy-born people represented approximately 1% of the total WA population.*

Italy-born Western Australians were older compared with the total WA population. While the cohort of those aged 45–64 decreased between 2001 and 2006 (from 50% to 39.2%), the cohort aged 65 or older increased (from 43.1% to 52.1%). These cohorts are large compared with the total WA population (25.2% and 12%). The 0–14 and 15–24 cohorts were much smaller compared with the total WA population, but the 25–44 years cohort was equal in size (20%, 14.2% and 7.3%, respectively). A small proportion fell under the younger age cohorts of 0–14 (0.7%), 15–24 (0.7%) and 25–44 (7.3%).

Men outnumbered women in all age cohorts except those aged 65 or older. The sex ratio (number of males per 100 females) for Italy-born people was estimated at 110, higher than that of WA population (99.5).

Family pattern

Most Italy-born Western Australians lived in couple families without children (43%), more than for the total WA population (19.4%). The proportion of couple families with children was less than in 2001 (12% compared with 36.7%), and also less than in the total WA population (38.5%). A slightly smaller proportion of Italy-born people lived in one-parent families than for the total WA population (6% compared with 10%).

Geographical distribution

Between 2001 and 2006, the settlement patterns of Italy-born Western Australians remained consistent. Most (89%) lived in the Perth Statistical Division (SD). Local Government Areas (LGAs) recording relatively high concentrations of Italy-born people were Stirling (21.5%), Cockburn (7.9%) and Bayswater (7.5%). The South West SD had the highest concentration of Italy-born Western Australians outside of Perth (6.1%).

Religious affiliation

The majority (96%) of Italy-born Western Australians identified Christianity, mainly Catholicism, as their religion. A small minority (2%) identified that they had no religion. This contrasts greatly with the proportion of the total WA population identifying as Christian (59%) or having no religion (22.6%).



Languages

In 2006, the majority (81%) of Italy-born Western Australians spoke a language other than English at home, mainly Italian. Of these people, the majority (60%) reported speaking English very well or well, with a smaller proportion (19.3%) speaking English not well or not at all. More Italy-born women than men (25.4% compared with 14%) reported that they spoke English not well or not at all. Italy-born men were more likely than women (23.3% compared with 13.8%) to speak only English at home.

Education

Fewer Italy-born Western Australians were qualified at degree level than for the total WA population (4.1% compared with 14.3%). They were also less likely to have qualified at advanced diploma, diploma or certificate level (17.1% compared with 24.7%), or to have completed Year 12 or equivalent (15.1% compared with 41.8%). The proportion of Italy-born people who did not attend school was higher than for the total WA population (6.4% compared with 0.6%).

Employment

The majority of Italy-born adults (60.5%) were not in the labour force; this was almost double the percentage for the total WA population (30.3%). More Italy-born women than men were in this category (72.2% compared with 51.6%). This trend most likely corresponds to the age structure of the Italy-born community. More than one-third of people (34.4%) were employed, fewer compared with the total WA population (59.1%). Italy-born men were more likely than women (44.2% compared with 23.7%) to be employed. The proportion of unemployed Italy-born people was lower than for the total WA population (0.7% compared with 2.3%).

Italy-born men were mainly employed as technicians and trade workers (31.7%), and professionals and managers (30.2%). Women were mainly employed as professionals and managers (25.6%), administrative and clerical workers (24.1%), and sales workers (15.3%).

Income

The majority of Italy-born Western Australians were in the lower income brackets. A significant proportion earned between \$250 and \$999 per week (40.6%), comparable to the total WA population. More than one-third (36.3%) earned less than \$250, almost double than for the total WA population (19.2%). The proportion earning no weekly income was slightly less than for the total WA population (4.6% compared with 6.4%). Italy-born women more likely than men (6.7% compared with 2.6%) to be in this category, reflecting a similar gender difference in the total WA population (8.1% and 4.6%, respectively).

The proportion of Italy-born people earning \$1000 or more per week doubled between 2001 and 2006 (6.3% to 12.2%), but was significantly lower than for the total WA population (20%). Italy-born men were around five times more likely than Italy-born women (19% compared with 4.7%) to earn \$1000 or more per week, reflecting a similar gender trend in the total WA population (29.9% compared with 10.4%).

Summary table

Variables	Italy-born 2006			Italy-born 2001	Total Western Australian population 2006		
	Male %	Female %	Total %	Total %	Male %	Female %	Total %
AGE GROUP /GENDER							
0–14	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.6	20.6	19.5	20.0
15–24	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	14.6	13.8	14.2
25–44	7.9	6.6	7.3	10.6	28.4	28.5	28.5
45–64	40.2	38.2	39.2	50.0	25.4	25.1	25.2
65+	50.5	53.8	52.1	43.1	11.0	13.1	12.0
All (#)	10958	9984	20942	23058	990,642	995,607	1,986,249
Sex-ratio			110	114			99.5
FAMILY TYPE							
Couple family without children	46.7	39.5	43.3	38.8	19.2	19.6	19.4
Couple family with children	14.5	9.6	12.2	36.7	38.7	38.3	38.5
One-parent family	3.5	9.0	6.1	5.7	7.9	12.1	10.0
LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY							
Speaks English only	23.3	13.8	18.7	17.5	80.6	81.3	80.9
Speaks other language and English; very well or well	61.5	60.3	60.9	60.6	9.6	9.9	9.8
Speaks other language and English; not well or not at all	14.1	25.0	19.3	20.3	1.5	2.0	1.7
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT (15 YEARS AND OVER)							
Degree level	4.7	3.5	4.1	3.2	13.4	15.1	14.3
Advanced diploma/diploma/ certificate	26.0	7.2	17.1	16.0	30.3	19.2	24.7
Completed Year 12 schooling	18.0	11.9	15.1	12.4	40.8	42.9	41.8
Did not attend school	5.1	7.8	6.4	7.4	0.5	0.7	0.6
LABOUR FORCE (15 YEARS AND OVER)							
Employed	44.2	23.7	34.4	35.4	65.5	52.7	59.1
Unemployed	0.8	0.5	0.7	1.7	2.4	2.2	2.3
Not in LF	51.6	72.2	61.5	60.5	23.2	37.4	30.3
WEEKLY INCOME (15 YEARS AND OVER)							
None	2.6	6.7	4.6	4.2	4.6	8.1	6.4
<\$250	31.7	41.4	36.3	50.4	13.8	24.4	19.2
<\$1000	40.9	40.3	40.6	33.7	39.7	46.7	43.2
\$1000 and more	19.0	4.7	12.2	6.3	29.9	10.4	20.0

Note: Totals do not always add up to 100% because of the use of selected indicators.

* The 2006 Census recorded a total WA population of 1,959,095 people.

** For 2001, the cut-off point was \$299.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics 2001 and 2006 Census of Population and Housing.

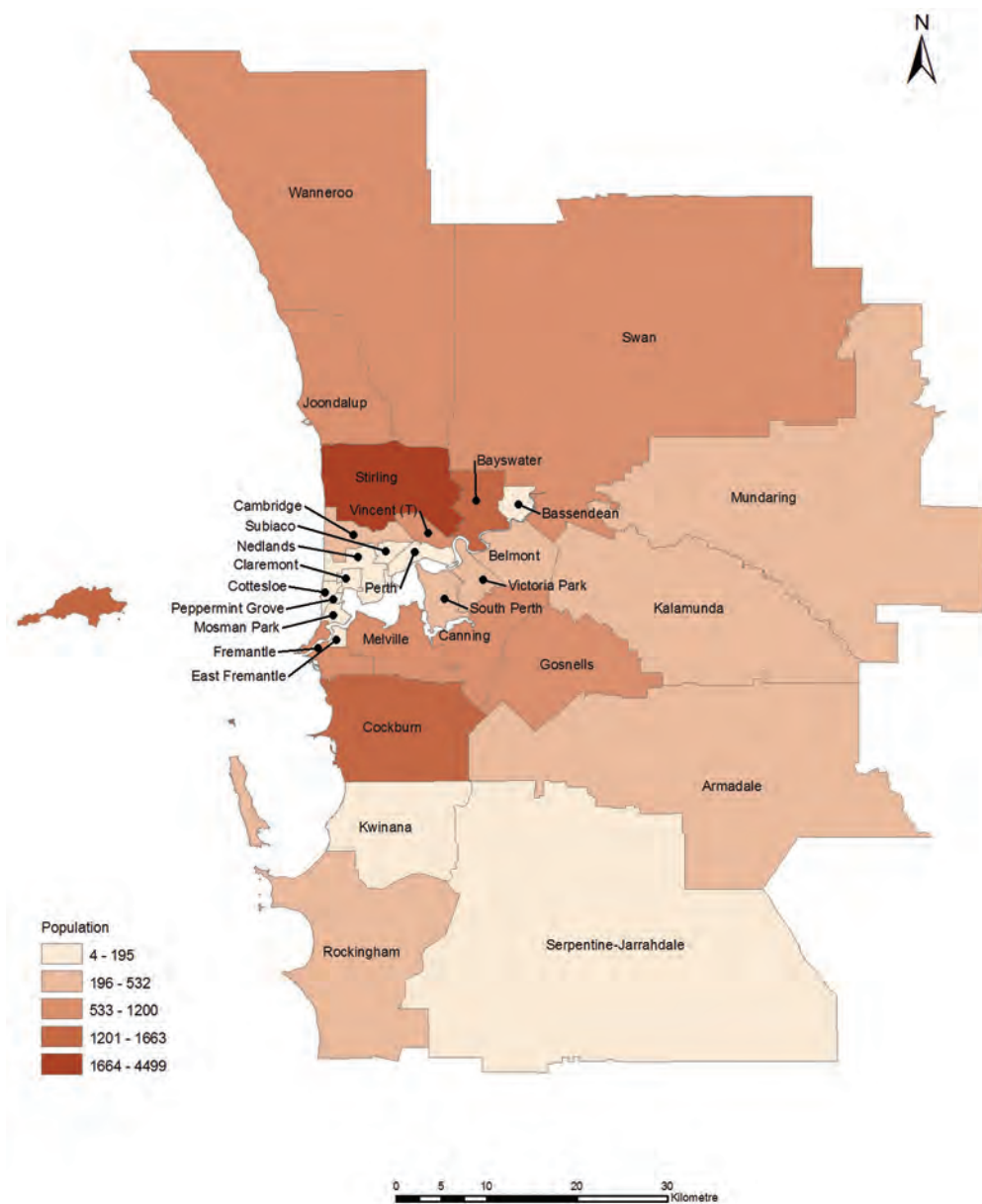


Figure 1: Distribution of Italy-born people by settlement pattern in the LGAs of the Perth Metropolitan Area (Data Source: ABS 2006 Census of Population and Housing).