

CENSUS 2021

Birthplaces of overseas-born Western Australians

1 in 3

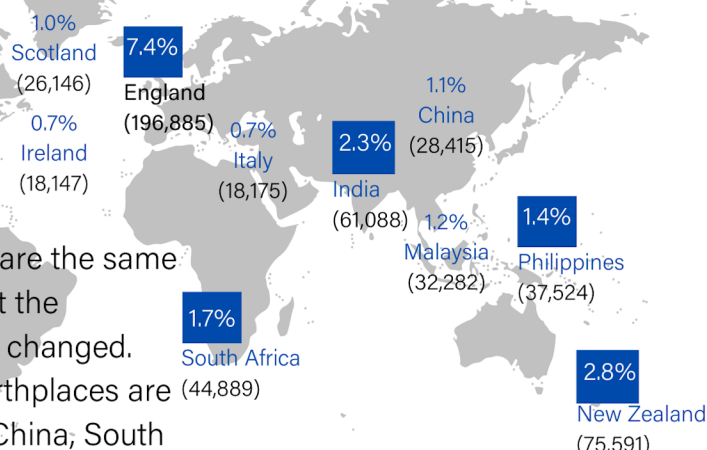
Western Australians are born overseas-the highest proportion, compared to other States and Territories in the last 50 years

Western Australia is home to people from 221 birthplaces across the globe.

The top 10 birthplaces are the same as the Census 2016 but the proportion of each has changed.

The highest-growth birthplaces are India, the Philippines, China, South Africa, Malaysia and Bhutan.

The share of WA's total population from non-main English-speaking (NMES) birthplaces is gradually becoming larger (17.5%) than those from main English-speaking (MES) birthplaces (14.7%).



TOP 10 Birthplaces

England
New Zealand
India
South Africa
Philippines
Malaysia
China
Scotland
Italy
Ireland

MES birthplaces include Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, South Africa, the United Kingdom, England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and United States of America. Australia is noted outside this definition, and the remaining birthplaces are classified as NMES birthplaces by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

Table 1: Population composition by overseas-born, and growth since 2016

Indicator	WA: 2021		2016-2021 Growth	
	Number	% of population	Number	%
Total population	2,660,026	100	185,616	7.5
Overseas born	856,030	32.2	59,726	7.5
MES birthplaces	391,397	14.7	5,346	1.4
NMES birthplaces	464,633	17.5	54,379	13.3

Table 2 shows the top 20 overseas birthplaces of residents in Western Australia.

The rate of increase was almost 10 times larger for NMES birthplaces (13.3%) since 2016 compared to those from MES birthplaces (1.4%).

Birthplaces with a threshold of more than 1,000 people in 2021 that experienced a very high growth (40% or more) since 2016 were mainly from Asia, followed by the Middle East and South America. They are:

- Bhutan with a 235% increase from 1,305 to 4,375
- Nepal with a 69.7% increase from 2,621 to 4,449
- Syria with a 65.5 % increase from 606 to 1,003
- Argentina with a 63.9% increase from 768 to 1,259
- Columbia with a 53.9% increase from 1,704 to 2,623;
- Pakistan with a 40% increase from 2,173 to 7,615.

Table 2: The top 20 overseas birthplaces

Birthplace	WA:2021		2016-2021 Growth	
	Number	% of WA population	Number	%
England	196,885	7.4	2,721	1.4
New Zealand	75,591	2.8	-3,631	-4.6
India	61,088	2.3	11,704	23.7
South Africa	44,889	1.7	3,881	9.5
Philippines	37,524	1.4	6,689	21.7
Malaysia	32,382	1.2	3,258	11.2
China	28,415	1.1	-644	-2.2
Scotland	26,146	1.0	-931	-3.4
Italy	18,175	0.7	-1,029	-5.4
Ireland	18,147	0.7	113	0.6
Vietnam	18,080	0.7	2,235	14.1
Singapore	15,995	0.6	1,008	6.7
Indonesia	14,062	0.5	2,668	23.4
Zimbabwe	12,736	0.5	1,087	9.3
Germany	11,366	0.4	408	3.7
United States of America	10,366	0.4	1,065	11.5
Thailand	10,003	0.4	2,197	28.1
Myanmar	9,351	0.4	647	7.4
Sri Lanka	9,158	0.3	1,362	17.5
Netherlands	8,833	0.3	-300	-3.3

People born in Bhutan
increased by

235%