



Community Information Summary

Mauritius-born

Historical Background

Mauritius has a long connection with Australia dating back to the establishment of a trading relationship after the Peace of Amiens (1802-3). Between 1820 and 1834, the Catholic Church in Australia was officially administered from Mauritius.

Early immigrants to Australia included Mauritian convicts, prospectors who came to the Victorian goldfields and skilled sugar workers who made a significant contribution to the development of the Queensland sugar industry. Sugar from Mauritius had been a major import to Australia in the 19th Century.

In the first half of the 20th Century, the number of Mauritius-born in Australia fell steadily from 740 at the 1901 Census to 240 at the 1947 Census. With the end of the Second World War, significant migration to Australia recommenced. Most of those migrated were Franco-Mauritians, as the Immigration Restriction Act 1901 introduced policies excluding non-Europeans from entry to Australia, required that prospective settlers be "at least 75 per cent European".

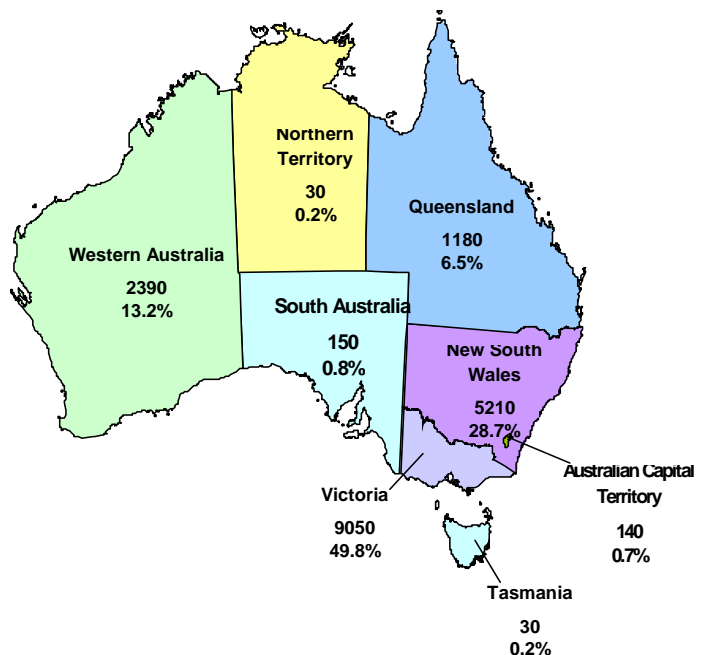
By the early 1960s, there were about 1580 Mauritians living in Australia. As Mauritius progressed towards universal suffrage, self-government and finally independence, some Mauritians found themselves in a less privileged position and were more inclined to emigrate. About 14 000 Mauritians left their homeland between 1966 and 1972, some migrating to Australia.

Given the size of Mauritius, the number of Mauritians in Australia is surprisingly substantial. Numbers have increased steadily over the past 30 years. The 1971 Census recorded 7630 Mauritius-born living in Australia; and by the 2001 Census their number had increased to 16 910 making up 0.4 per cent of the overseas-born population.

Today

Geographic Distribution

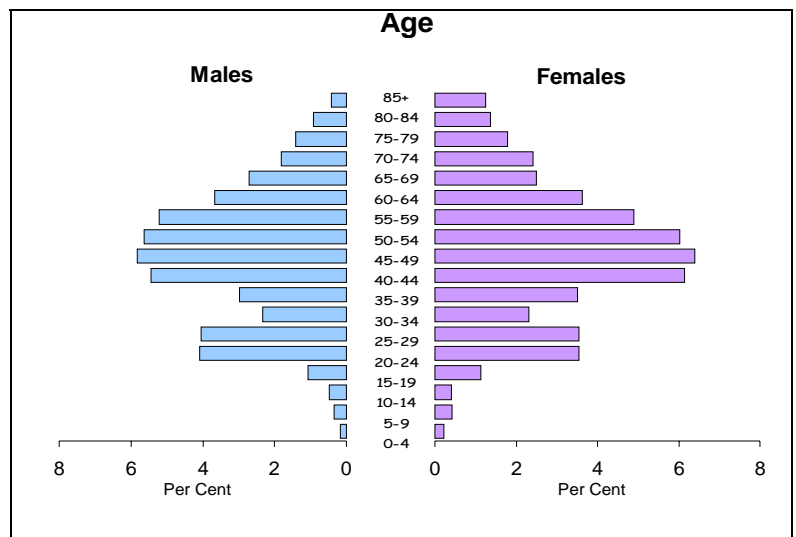
The latest Census in 2006 recorded 18 180 Mauritius-born people in Australia, an increase of 7.5 per cent from the 2001 Census. The 2006 distribution by state and territory showed Victoria had the largest number with 9050 followed by New South Wales (5210), Western Australia (2390) and Queensland (1180).



Age and Sex

The median age of the Mauritius-born in 2006 was 48.2 years compared with 46.8 years for all overseas-born and 37.1 years for the total Australian population. The age distribution showed 2.0 per cent were aged 0-14 years, 9.8 per cent were 15-24 years, 30.3 per cent were 25-44 years, 41.3 per cent were 45-64 years and 16.6 per cent were 65 and over.

Of the Mauritius-born in Australia, there were 8820 males (48.5 per cent) and 9360 females (51.5 per cent). The sex ratio was 94.2 males per 100 females.

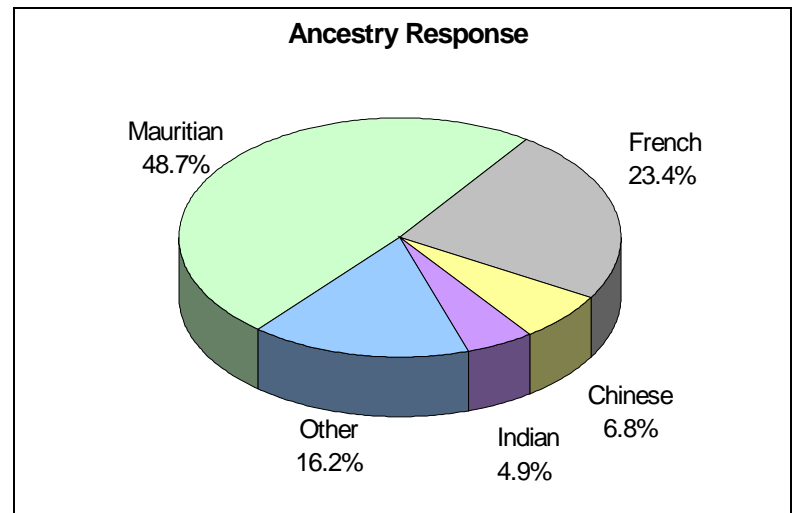


Ancestry

In the 2006 Census, the top three ancestry responses* that Mauritius-born people reported were, Mauritian (10 450), French (5010) and Chinese (1450).

In the 2006 Census, Australians reported more than 250 different Ancestries. From the total ancestry responses*, 0.1 per cent responded as having a Mauritian ancestry.

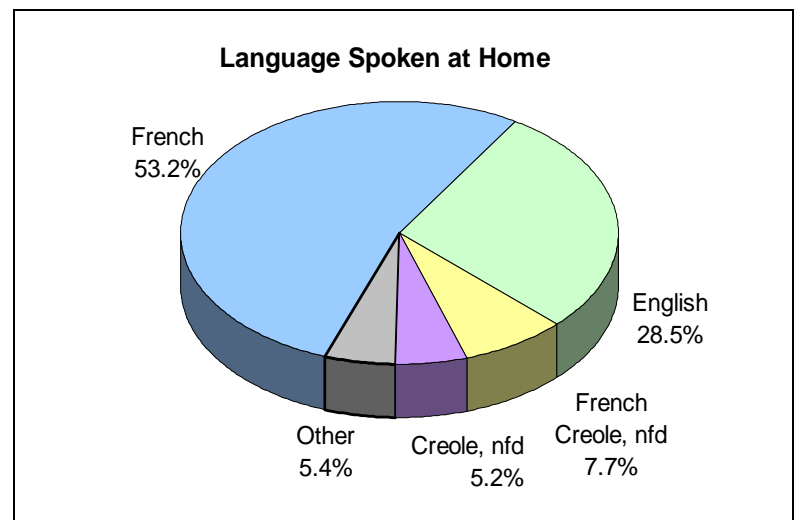
*At the 2006 Census up to two responses per person were allowed for the Ancestry question; therefore providing the total responses and not persons count.



Language

The main languages spoken at home by Mauritius-born people in Australia were French (53.2 per cent), English (28.5 per cent) and French Creole, nfd (7.7 per cent).

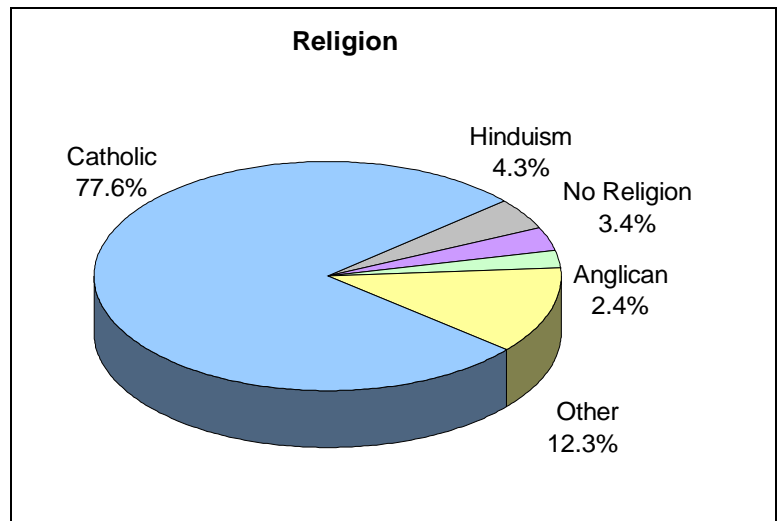
Of the 12 930 Mauritius-born who spoke a language other than English at home, 94.7 per cent spoke English very well or well and 4.3 per cent spoke English not well or not at all.



Religion

At the 2006 Census the major religious affiliations amongst Mauritius-born were Catholic (14 090 persons), Hinduism (780 persons) and No Religion (620 persons).

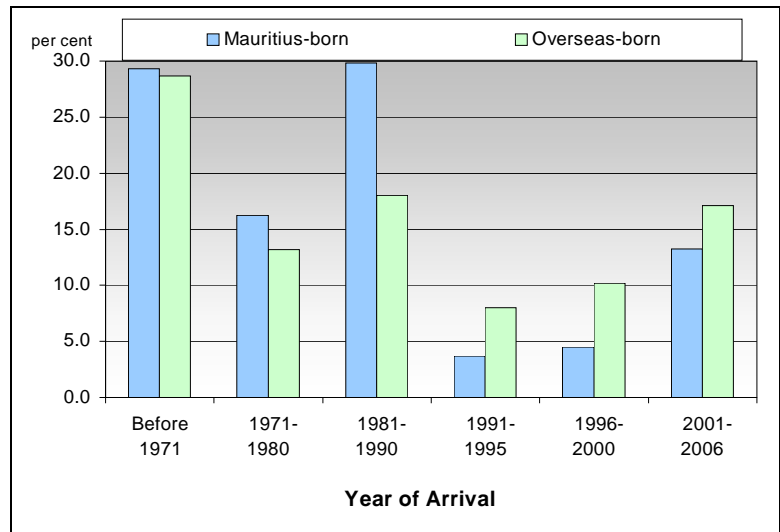
Of the Mauritius-born, 3.4 per cent stated 'No Religion', this was lower than that of the total Australian population (18.7 per cent). 2.2 per cent of the Mauritius-born did not state a religion.



Arrival

Compared to 67.9 per cent of the total overseas-born population, 79.0 per cent of the Mauritius-born people in Australia arrived in Australia prior to 1996.

Among the total Mauritius-born in Australia at the 2006 Census, 4.5 per cent arrived between 1996 and 2000 and 13.2 per cent arrived during 2001 and 2006.



Citizenship

At the 2006 Census, the estimated rate of Australian Citizenship for the Mauritius-born in Australia was 90.8 per cent. The estimated rate for all overseas-born was 75.6 per cent. This rate includes adjustments for people not meeting the residential requirement for citizenship, temporary entrants to Australia and underenumeration at the Census.

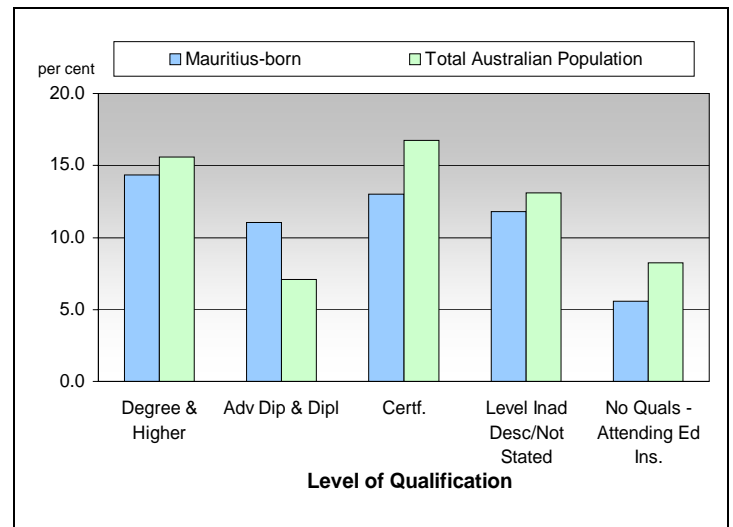
Median Income

At the time of the 2006 Census, the median individual weekly income for the Mauritius-born in Australia aged 15 years and over was \$483, compared with \$431 for all overseas-born and \$488 for all Australia-born. The total Australian population had a median individual weekly income of \$466.

Qualifications

At the 2006 Census, 50.2 per cent of the Mauritius-born aged 15 years and over had some form of higher non school qualifications compared to 52.5 per cent of the Australian population. Among the Mauritius-born, 25.4 per cent had Diploma level or higher* qualifications and 13.0 per cent had Certificate level qualifications. From the Mauritius-born, 8630 had no higher non school qualification, of which 11.5 per cent were still attending an educational institution.

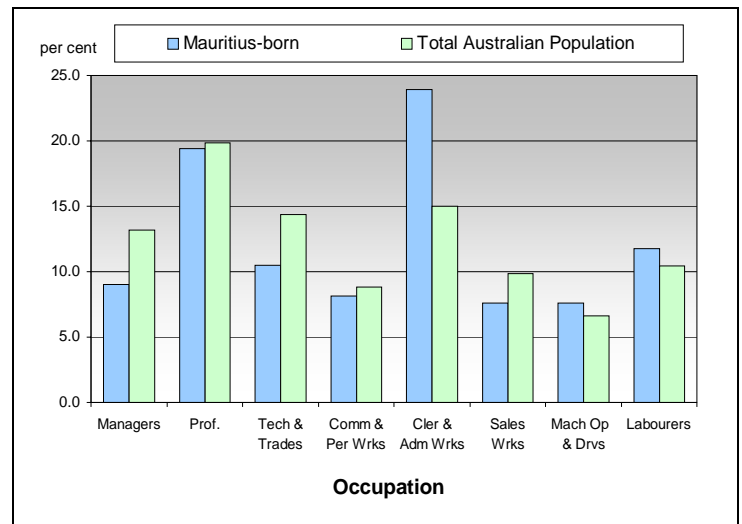
* Diploma level or higher qualification includes Degree level or higher, Advanced Diploma and Diploma level.



Employment

Among Mauritius-born people aged 15 years and over, the participation rate in the labour force was 65.6 per cent and the unemployment rate was 5.8 per cent. The corresponding rates in the total Australian population were 64.6 and 5.2 per cent respectively.

Of the 10 700 Mauritius-born who were employed, 25.2 per cent were employed in a Skill Level 1 occupation, 8.9 per cent in Skill Level 2 and 11.2 per cent in Skill Level 3. The corresponding rates in the total Australian population were 28.7, 10.7 and 15.1 per cent respectively.



Jointly produced by Multicultural Affairs Branch and the Programme Statistics and Monitoring Section of DIAC

All data used in this summary is sourced from the Australian Bureau of Statistics Census of Population and Housing. Sources for the Historical Background available at <http://www.immi.gov.au/media/publications/statistics/comm-summ/source.htm>

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