



Community Information Summary

Viet Nam-born

Historical Background

Viet Nam was part of French Indo-China until the Japanese occupation during the Second World War. In September 1945 Ho Chi Minh declared its independence; however the French then reoccupied Viet Nam leading to the French Indo-China War. After the French were defeated, a communist government was established in the north and an American-backed government in the south.

Saigon fell to the communists on 30 April 1975 and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam was declared in 1976. Mass numbers of Vietnamese fled their country. In the ensuing decade, an estimated two million people fled Viet Nam, initially by sea seeking refuge in neighbouring refugee camps in South East Asia and resettlement in the West, predominantly in Australia, the United States, France and Canada.

Prior to 1975, there were about 700 Viet Nam-born people in Australia, mostly tertiary students, orphans, and wives of Australian military personnel who had served in Viet Nam. Refugee resettlement occurred during 1975-1985, followed by family reunion. By 1981, 49 616 Vietnamese had been resettled in Australia.

The composition of the Vietnamese intake changed in the mid-1990s with the implementation of the Comprehensive Plan of Action and streamlining of the Vietnamese Family Migration Program. Thereafter, the number of refugees seeking asylum in Australia declined.

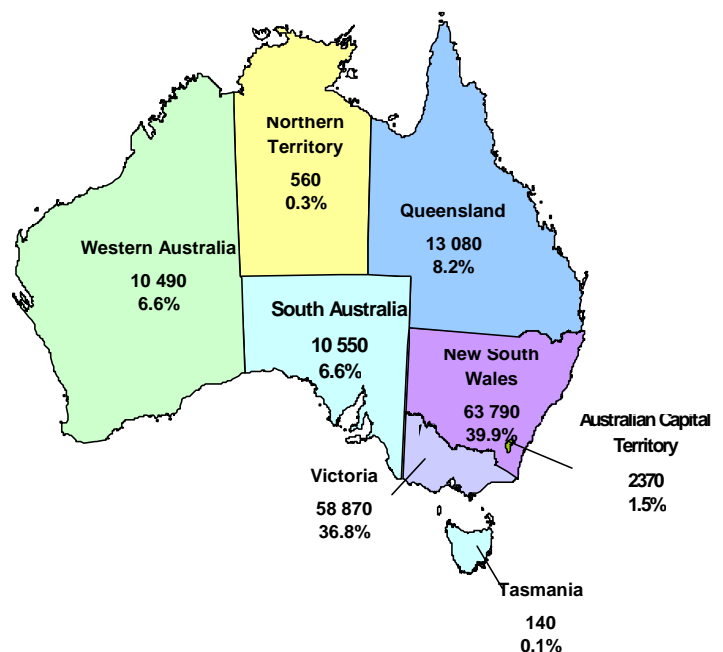
The majority of Australia's Viet Nam-born reside in New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland and South Australia comprising mainly of Vietnamese and Chinese ancestry.

There were 154 830 Viet Nam-born people in Australia at the 2001 Census, making up 3.8 per cent of the overseas-born population and 0.8 per cent of the total Australian population.

Today

Geographic Distribution

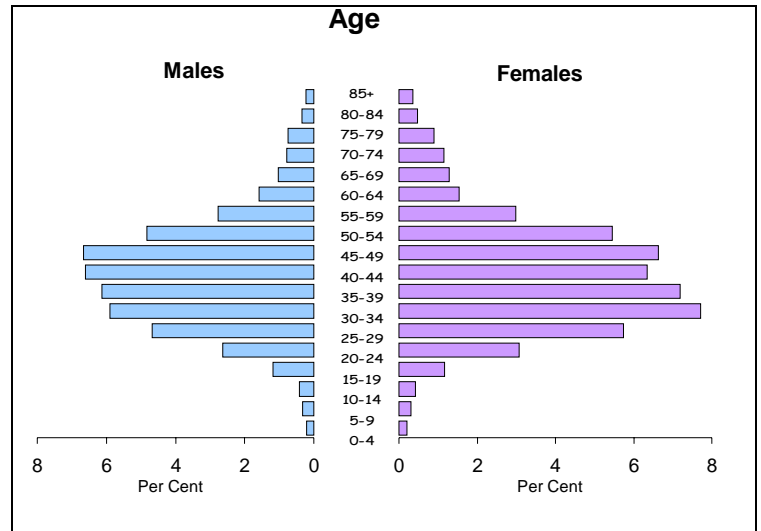
The latest Census in 2006 recorded 159 850 Viet Nam-born people in Australia, an increase of 3.2 per cent from the 2001 Census. The 2006 distribution by state and territory showed New South Wales had the largest number with 63 790 followed by Victoria (58 870), Queensland (13 080) and South Australia (10 550).



Age and Sex

The median age of the Viet Nam-born in 2006 was 41.0 years compared with 46.8 years for all overseas-born and 37.1 years for the total Australian population. The age distribution showed 1.9 per cent were aged 0-14 years, 8.1 per cent were 15-24 years, 50.3 per cent were 25-44 years, 32.5 per cent were 45-64 years and 7.3 per cent were 65 and over.

Of the Viet Nam-born in Australia, there were 75 290 males (47.1 per cent) and 84 560 females (52.9 per cent). The sex ratio was 89.0 males per 100 females.

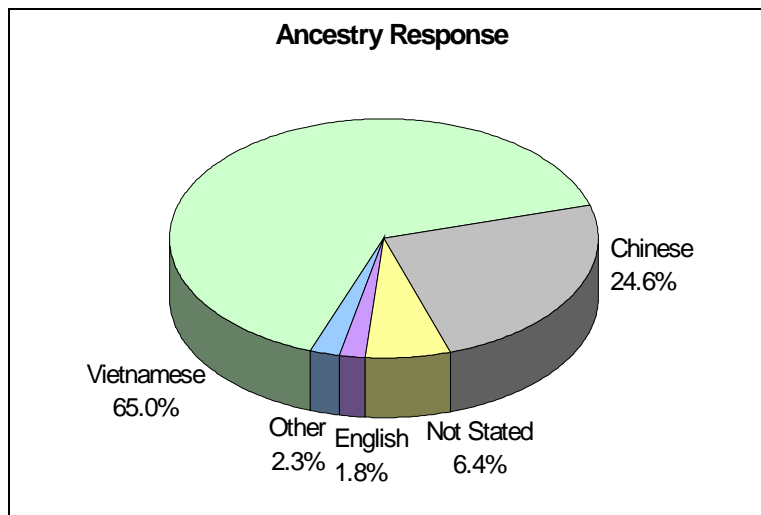


Ancestry

In the 2006 Census, the top three ancestry responses* that Viet Nam-born people reported were, Vietnamese (109 070), Chinese (41 240) and Not Stated (10 780).

In the 2006 Census, Australians reported more than 250 different Ancestries. From the total ancestry responses*, 0.7 per cent responded as having a Vietnamese ancestry.

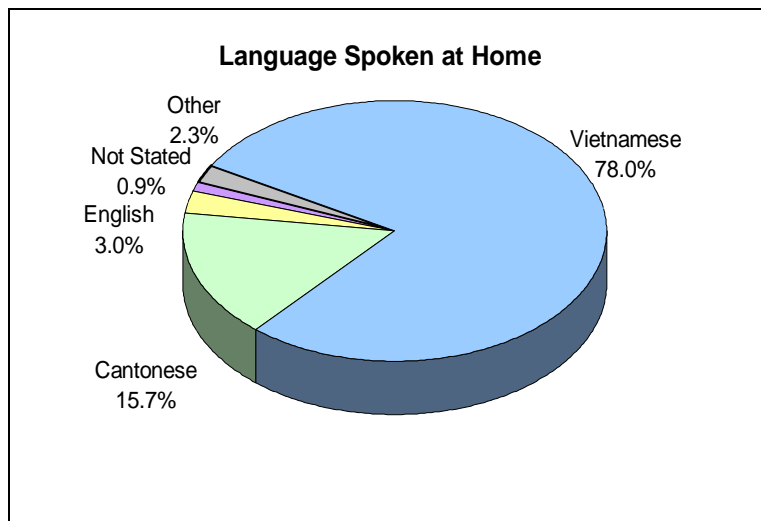
*At the 2006 Census up to two responses per person were allowed for the Ancestry question, therefore providing the total responses and not persons count.



Language

The main languages spoken at home by Viet Nam-born people in Australia were Vietnamese (78.0 per cent), Cantonese (15.7 per cent) and English (3.0 per cent).

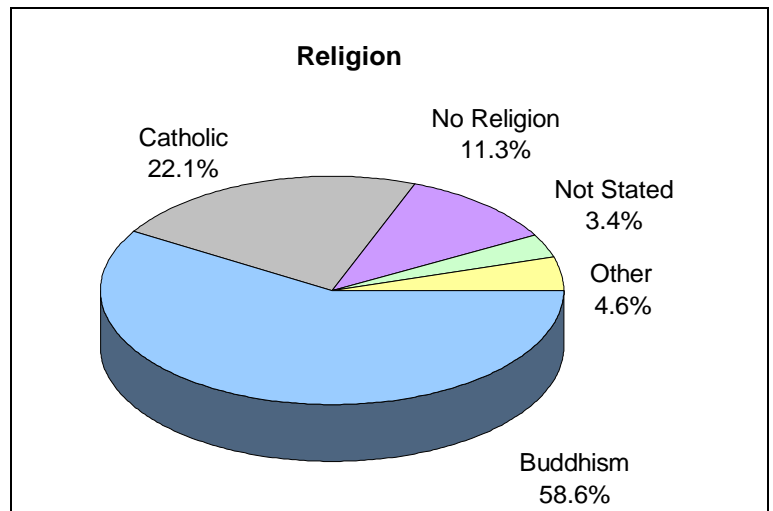
Of the 154 010 Viet Nam-born who spoke a language other than English at home, 56.1 per cent spoke English very well or well and 43.3 per cent spoke English not well or not at all.



Religion

At the 2006 Census the major religious affiliations amongst Viet Nam-born were Buddhism (93 610 persons), Catholic (35 400 persons) and No Religion (18 090 persons).

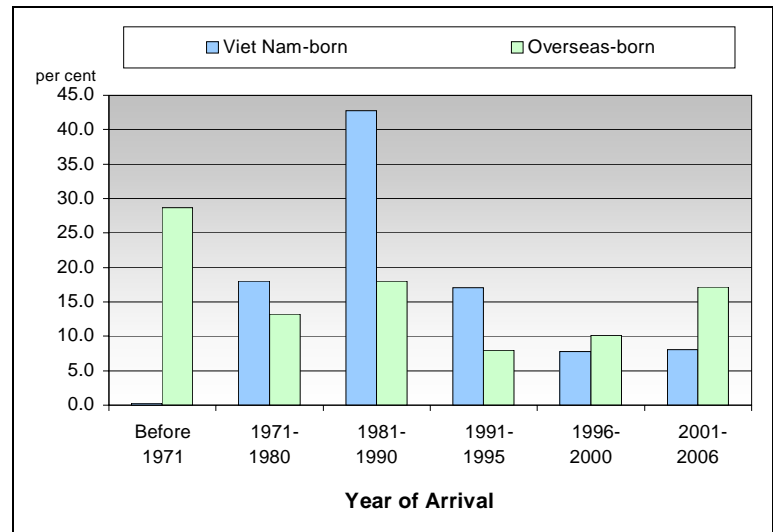
Of the Viet Nam-born, 11.3 per cent stated 'No Religion', this was lower than that of the total Australian population (18.7 per cent). 3.4 per cent of the Viet Nam-born did not state a religion.



Arrival

Compared to 67.9 per cent of the total overseas-born population, 78.1 per cent of the Viet Nam-born people in Australia arrived in Australia prior to 1996.

Among the total Viet Nam-born in Australia at the 2006 Census, 7.8 per cent arrived between 1996 and 2000 and 8.1 per cent arrived during 2001 and 2006.



Citizenship

At the 2006 Census, the estimated rate of Australian Citizenship for the Viet Nam-born in Australia was 95.1 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.

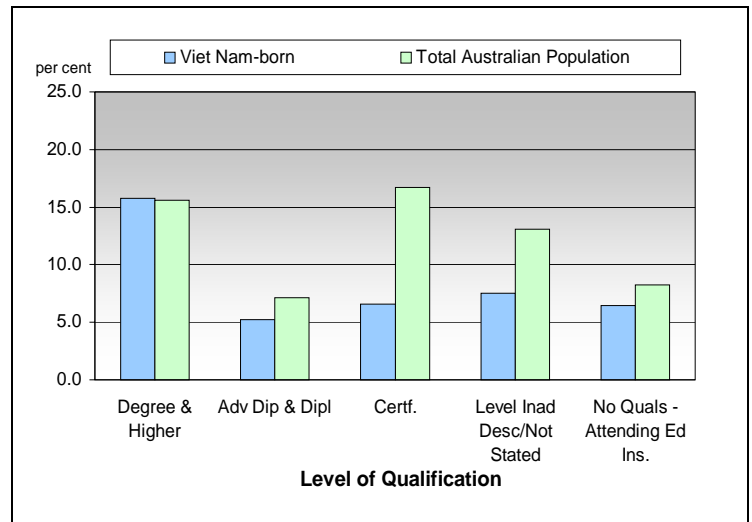
Median Income

At the time of the 2006 Census, the median individual weekly income for the Viet Nam-born in Australia aged 15 years and over was \$349, 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, 35.1 per cent of the Viet Nam-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 Viet Nam-born, 21.0 per cent had Diploma level or higher* qualifications and 6.5 per cent had Certificate level qualifications. From the Viet Nam-born, 99 880 had no higher non school qualification, of which 10.1 per cent were still attending an educational institution.

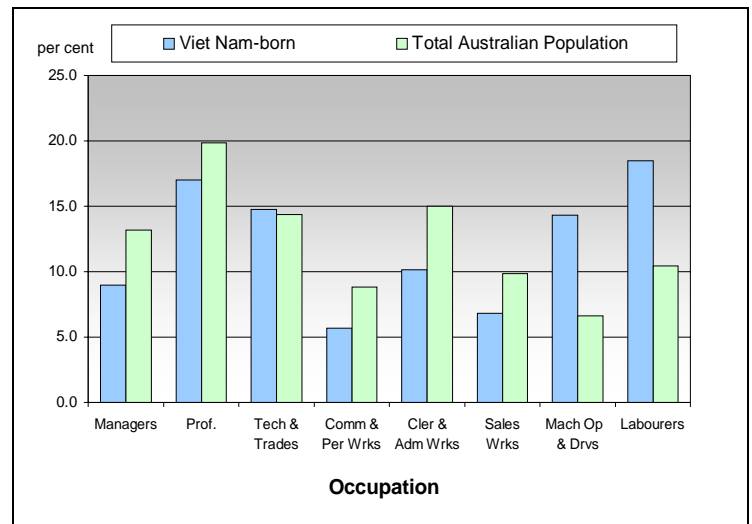
* Diploma level or higher qualification includes Degree level or higher, Advanced Diploma and Diploma level.



Employment

Among Viet Nam-born people aged 15 years and over, the participation rate in the labour force was 61.9 per cent and the unemployment rate was 11.4 per cent. The corresponding rates in the total Australian population were 64.6 and 5.2 per cent respectively.

Of the 84 150 Viet Nam-born who were employed, 21.8 per cent were employed in a Skill Level 1 occupation, 8.9 per cent in Skill Level 2 and 12.2 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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