



Community Information Summary

Zimbabwe-born

Historical Background

During the late 19th and early 20th centuries the British controlled Rhodesia. After gaining independence in 1980, the Republic of Zimbabwe was formed.

Mr Robert Mugabe was elected Prime Minister in 1980 and under his control there have been a number of government sponsored moves to dispossess non-indigenous farmers from their land. Between 1976 and 1980 almost one-fifth of the British and European-background population left Zimbabwe, due to political turmoil. Many went to South Africa and the United Kingdom, while some emigrated to Australia.

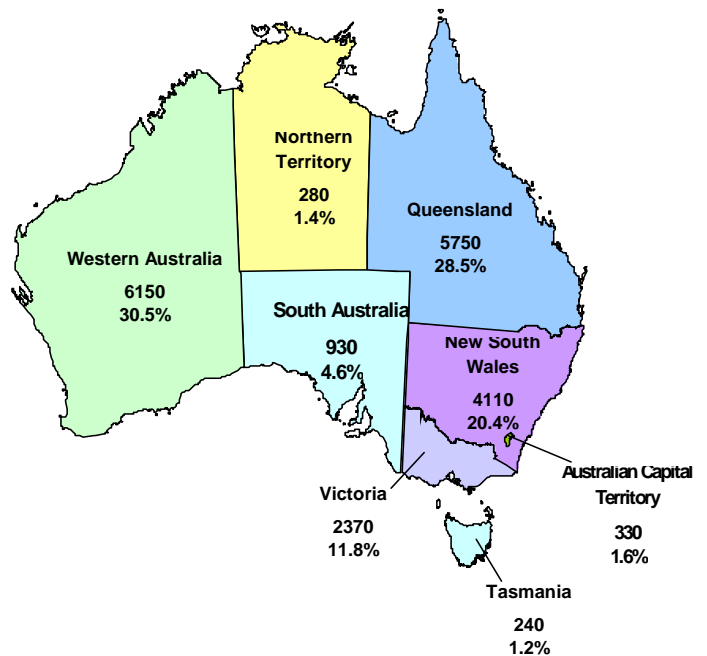
Most Zimbabwe-born in Australia speak English, while some speak Shona.

There were 11 610 Zimbabwe-born people in Australia at the 2001 Census, making up 0.3 per cent of the overseas-born population.

Today

Geographic Distribution

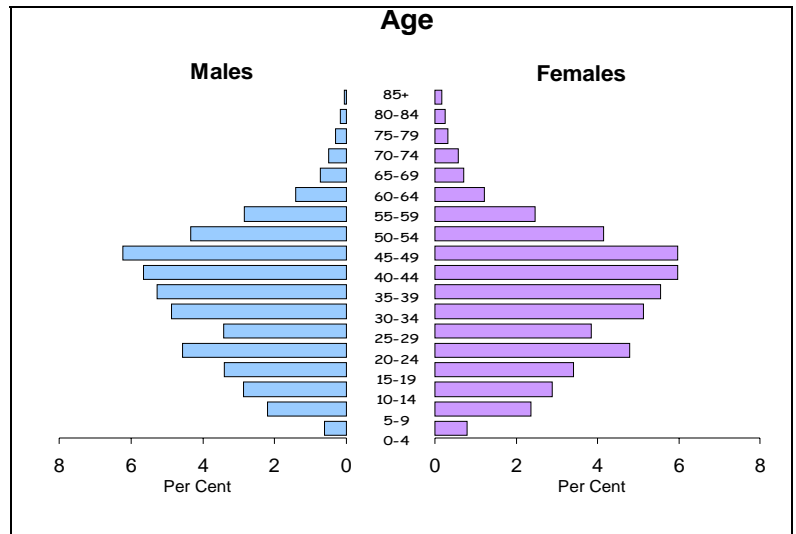
The latest Census in 2006 recorded 20 160 Zimbabwe-born people in Australia, an increase of 73.6 per cent from the 2001 Census. The 2006 distribution by state and territory showed Western Australia had the largest number with 6150 followed by Queensland (5750), New South Wales (4110) and Victoria (2370).



Age and Sex

The median age of the Zimbabwe-born in 2006 was 37.2 years compared with 46.8 years for all overseas-born and 37.1 years for the total Australian population. The age distribution showed 11.7 per cent were aged 0-14 years, 16.2 per cent were 15-24 years, 39.7 per cent were 25-44 years, 28.6 per cent were 45-64 years and 3.8 per cent were 65 and over.

Of the Zimbabwe-born in Australia, there were 9970 males (49.4 per cent) and 10 200 females (50.6 per cent). The sex ratio was 97.7 males per 100 females.

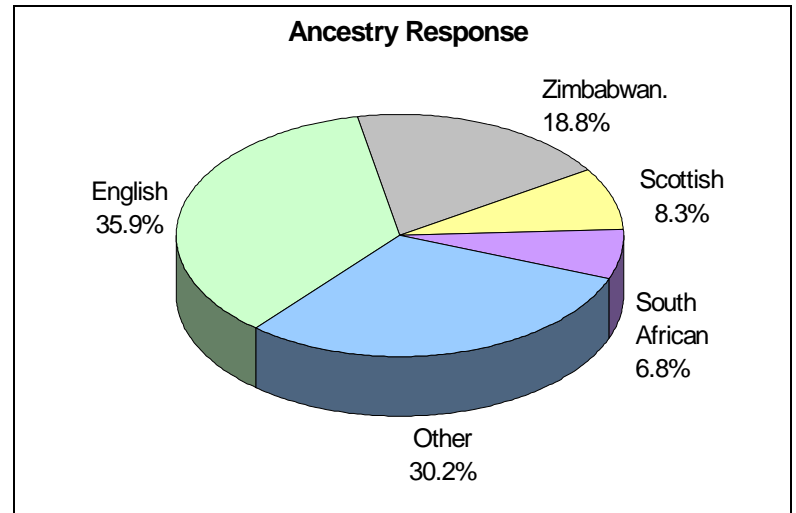


Ancestry

In the 2006 Census, the top three ancestry responses* that Zimbabwe-born people reported were, English (9480), Zimbabwean (4980) and Scottish (2200).

In the 2006 Census, Australians reported more than 250 different Ancestries. From the total ancestry responses*, 24.7 per cent responded as having an English ancestry.

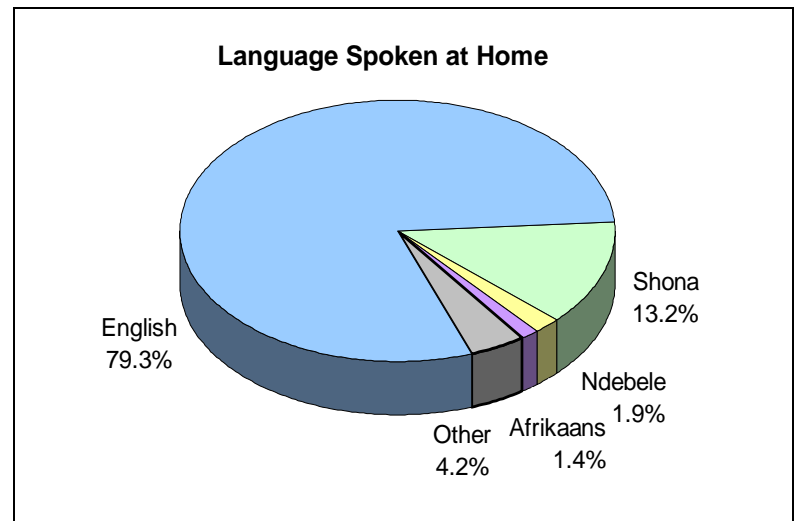
*At the 2006 Census up to two responses per person were allowed for the Ancestry question; therefore providing the total responses and not persons count.



Language

The main languages spoken at home by Zimbabwe-born people in Australia were English (79.3 per cent), Shona (13.2 per cent) and Ndebele (1.9 per cent).

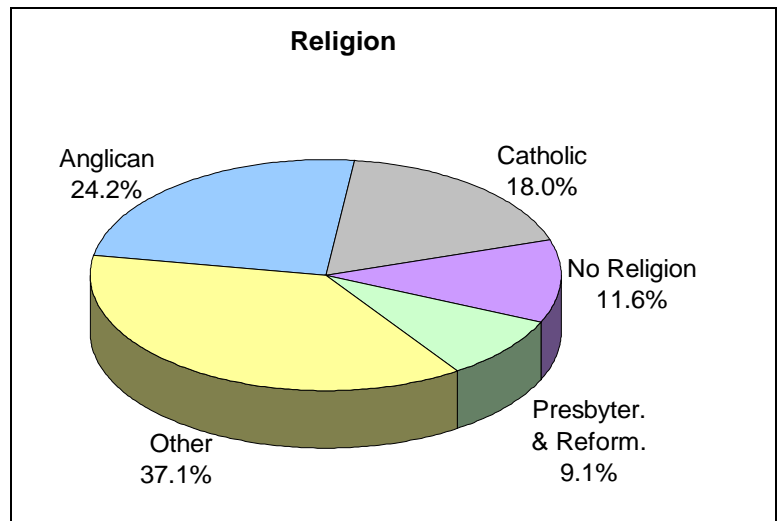
Of the 4120 Zimbabwe-born who spoke a language other than English at home, 96.1 per cent spoke English very well or well and 2.5 per cent spoke English not well or not at all.



Religion

At the 2006 Census the major religious affiliations amongst Zimbabwe-born were Anglican (4880 persons), Catholic (3620 persons) and No Religion (2340 persons).

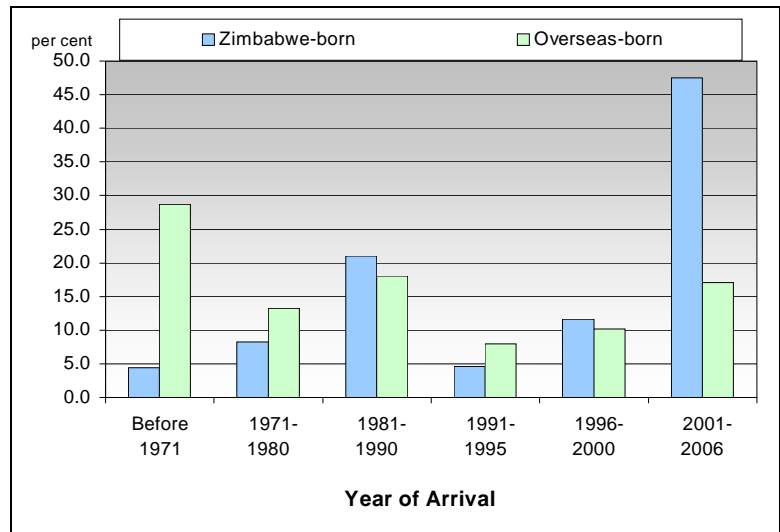
Of the Zimbabwe-born, 11.6 per cent stated 'No Religion', this was lower than that of the total Australian population (18.7 per cent). 4.4 per cent of the Zimbabwe-born did not state a religion.



Arrival

Compared to 67.9 per cent of the total overseas-born population, 38.3 per cent of the Zimbabwe-born people in Australia arrived in Australia prior to 1996.

Among the total Zimbabwe-born in Australia at the 2006 Census, 11.6 per cent arrived between 1996 and 2000 and 47.5 per cent arrived during 2001 and 2006.



Citizenship

At the 2006 Census, the estimated rate of Australian Citizenship for the Zimbabwe-born in Australia was 75.6 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.

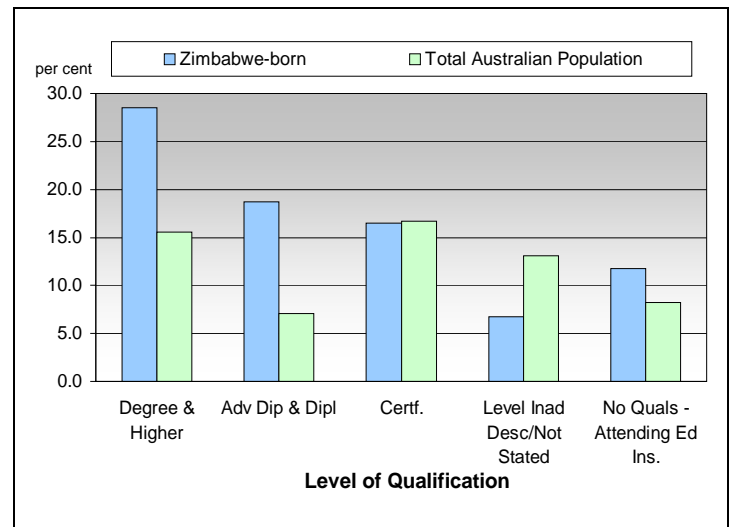
Median Income

At the time of the 2006 Census, the median individual weekly income for the Zimbabwe-born in Australia aged 15 years and over was \$705, 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, 70.4 per cent of the Zimbabwe-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 Zimbabwe-born, 47.2 per cent had Diploma level or higher* qualifications and 16.5 per cent had Certificate level qualifications. From the Zimbabwe-born, 5190 had no higher non school qualification, of which 40.2 per cent were still attending an educational institution.

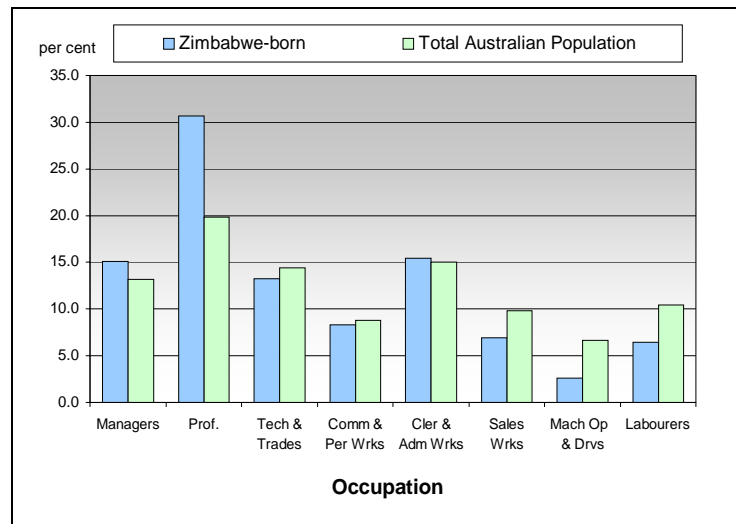
* Diploma level or higher qualification includes Degree level or higher, Advanced Diploma and Diploma level.



Employment

Among Zimbabwe-born people aged 15 years and over, the participation rate in the labour force was 80.6 per cent and the unemployment rate was 4.7 per cent. The corresponding rates in the total Australian population were 64.6 and 5.2 per cent respectively.

Of the 13 570 Zimbabwe-born who were employed, 42.1 per cent were employed in a Skill Level 1 occupation, 10.2 per cent in Skill Level 2 and 14.1 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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