

THE IRAQ-BORN COMMUNITY IN VICTORIA: 2011 CENSUS

At the 2011 Census, there were 12,796 Iraq-born persons in Victoria (26.6% of Australia's total), increasing by 48.6% (4,183) from 8,613 persons in 2006. More than half (56.2%) of the Iraq-born lived in the local government area of Hume; there were slight concentrations in Whittlesea (11.2%); Moreland (5.9%); Greater Dandenong (3.6%); and Greater Shepparton (3.0%) in regional Victoria. Only 4.6% of the Iraq-born in Victoria had arrived in Australia prior to 1991; 37.6% had arrived between 1991 and 2000; and 54.0% had arrived between 2001 and 2011.

The Iraq-born community reflected a relatively young age profile: 14.0% were aged 18 years and below; 14.4% were aged 19-25 years; 42.5% were aged 26-44 years; 23.8% were aged 45-64 years; and 5.4% were aged 65 years and over. The median age was 36 years, compared to 37 years for the total Victorian population. The gender ratio was 106 males to 100 females, compared to 98 males to 100 females for total Victoria.

The Iraq-born followed a variety of religions: 43.8% were Western Catholic; 28.7% followed Islam; 9.5% were Chaldean Catholic; 5.1% followed the Assyrian Church; 1.0% had no religion. Most (95.9%) spoke a language other than English; 30.8% assessed themselves as speaking English not well or not at all. Two-thirds (67.4%) held Australian Citizenship, compared to 63.1% for the total overseas-born population in Victoria. Over half (56.4%) of the Iraq-born aged 15 years and over received a weekly personal income of less than \$400; 9.9% received no income.

Demographic Background

Persons born in Iraq in Victoria and Australia: 2011, 2006 and 2001 Census

Location	2011 Census		2006 Census		2001 Census		Change 2006-2011		Change 2001-2006	
	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	% change	Persons	% change
Metropolitan Melbourne ^(a)	12,041	25.0	7,952	24.5	5,598	22.5	4,089	51.4	2,354	42.1
Rest of Victoria ^(b)	755	1.6	661	2.0	495	2.0	94	14.2	166	33.5
Total Victoria	12,796	26.6	8,613	26.5	6,093	24.5	4,183	48.6	2,520	41.4
Total Australia	48,164	100.0	32,518	100.0	24,832	100.0	15,646	48.1	7,686	31.0

^(a) Included "Undefined Melbourne" in 2001.

^(b) Includes 'No Usual Address, Victoria'.

Distribution of Iraq-born, Top 5 Local Government Areas: 2011, 2006

Local Government Area	2011 Census		2006 Census		Rank in 2006
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
Hume	7,194	56.2	4,481	52.0	1
Whittlesea	1,427	11.2	930	10.8	2
Moreland	752	5.9	747	8.7	3
Greater Dandenong	461	3.6	239	2.8	7
Greater Shepparton	386	3.0	341	4.0	4
Rest of LGAs, Metro Melb	2,204	17.2	1,555	18.1	
Rest of LGAs, Reg. Vic	371	2.9	317	3.7	
Total Victoria	12,795	100.0	8,610	100.0	

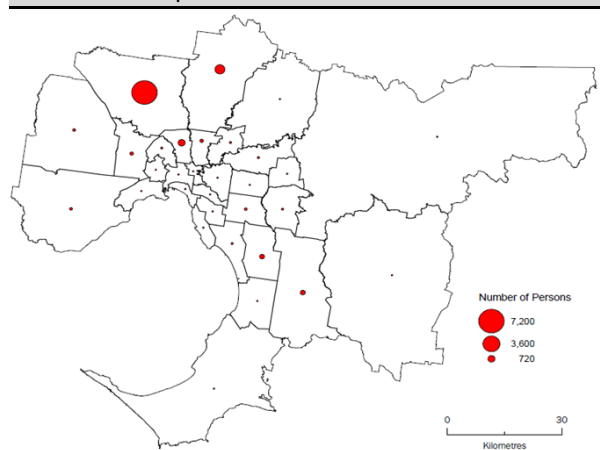
Year of Arrival of Iraq-born: 2011

Year of Arrival ^(b)	Iraq-born		Total OSB, Vic ^(a)	
	Persons	%	Persons	%
Before 1991	589	4.6	682,720	48.6
1991 - 1995	2,131	16.7	89,119	6.3
1996 - 2000	2,668	20.9	104,896	7.5
2001 - 2005	2,710	21.2	151,488	10.8
2006 - 2011	4,202	32.8	316,244	22.5
Not stated	496	3.9	60,867	4.3
Total	12,796	100.0	1,405,334	100.0

^(a) OSB stands for Overseas-born.

^(b) Records the year of arrival in Australia for people born overseas who intend staying in Australia for at least one year.

Distribution of Iraq-Born in Melbourne, 2011



Age Distribution of Iraq-born: 2011, 2006

Age group (years)	2011 Census		2006 Census		2006-2011 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
0-4	119	0.9	53	0.6	124.5
5-11	576	4.5	436	5.1	32.1
12-18	1,094	8.6	1,185	13.8	-7.7
19-25	1,845	14.4	1,141	13.2	61.7
26-44	5,433	42.5	3,860	44.8	40.8
45-54	2,080	16.3	1,100	12.8	89.1
55-64	957	7.5	464	5.4	106.3
65-74	455	3.6	247	2.9	84.2
75+	236	1.8	128	1.5	84.4
Total	12,795	100.0	8,614	100.0	48.5
<i>Sex Ratio</i>	<i>106</i>		<i>males per 100 females</i>		
<i>Median Age</i>	<i>36</i>		<i>34</i>		

Top 5 Religions of Iraq-born: 2011, 2006

Religion	2011 Census		2006 Census		2006-2011 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
Western Catholic	5,607	43.8	3,456	40.1	62.2
Islam	3,673	28.7	2,344	27.2	56.7
Chaldean Catholic	1,213	9.5	1,327	15.4	-8.6
Assyrian Church ^(a)	649	5.1	402	4.7	61.4
Ancient Church ^(a)	247	1.9	76	0.9	225.0
Other religions	1,026	8.0	733	8.5	40.0
No religion	130	1.0	65	0.8	100.0
Not stated ^(b)	250	2.0	211	2.4	18.5
Total	12,795	100.0	8,614	100.0	48.5

^(a) Church of the East

^(b) Includes 'Religious Belief, not further defined' and 'Not Defined'.

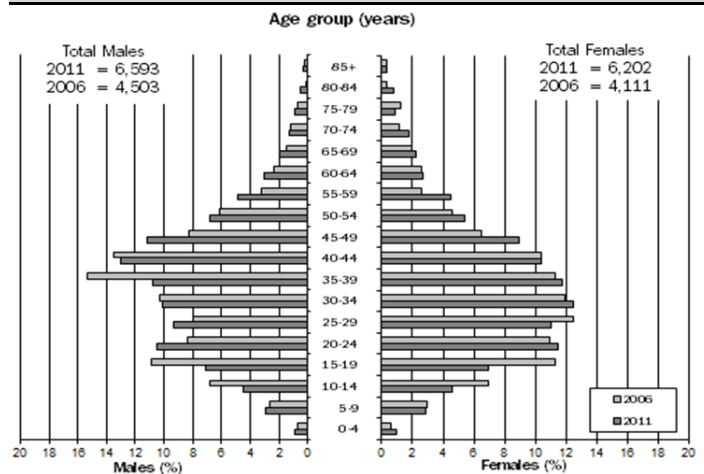
Iraq-born with Australian Citizenship by Age: 2011, 2006

Age group (years)	2011 Census		2006 Census		2006-2011 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
0-4	17	0.2	15	0.2	13.3
5-11	134	1.6	246	3.9	-45.5
12-18	667	7.7	887	14.0	-24.8
19-25	1,237	14.3	753	11.9	64.3
26-44	3,679	42.7	2,882	45.5	27.7
45-64	2,367	27.4	1,244	19.7	90.3
65-74	342	4.0	196	3.1	74.5
75+	181	2.1	107	1.7	69.2
Total	8,624	100.0	6,330	100.0	36.2

nfd = not further defined

For more detailed tables on a wider range of demographic and socio-economic data for this community from the 2011 Census, refer to the Community Profiles series available for free download from www.multicultural.vic.gov.au.

Age and Gender Distribution of Iraq-Born, 2011



Proficiency in English of Iraq-born: 2011, 2006

Proficiency in English	2011 Census		2006 Census		2006-2011 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
Speaks English only	337	2.6	287	3.3	17.4
<i>Speaks other language and speaks English</i>					
Very well	4,062	31.7	2,693	31.3	50.8
Well	4,269	33.4	3,071	35.7	39.0
Not well	2,890	22.6	1,811	21.0	59.6
Not at all	1,049	8.2	615	7.1	70.6
Not stated ^(a)	187	1.5	137	1.6	36.5
Total	12,794	100.0	8,614	100.0	48.5

^(a) Includes those who did not state a language and/or proficiency in English.

Total Personal Income (Weekly), Iraq-born: 2011

Total personal income (weekly) ^(a)	Iraq-born		Tot Vic pop	
	Persons	%	Persons	%
Negative/Nil	1,158	9.9	377,766	8.7
\$1-199	1,751	14.9	341,700	7.8
\$200-\$399	4,862	41.5	882,992	20.3
\$400-\$599	1,328	11.3	504,498	11.6
\$600-\$799	731	6.2	459,629	10.6
\$800-\$999	433	3.7	367,453	8.4
\$1,000-\$1,499	442	3.8	584,245	13.4
\$1,500-\$1,999	158	1.3	255,935	5.9
\$2,000 or more	217	1.9	246,378	5.7
Not stated	645	5.5	334,647	7.7
Total	11,725	100.0	4,355,243	100.0

^(a) Applicable to persons aged 15 years and over.

Source of data: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing, 2006, 2011.