

At the 2011 Census, there were 2,261 Syria-born persons in Victoria (26.9% of Australia's total), increasing by 21.4% (399) from 1,862 persons in 2006. The Syria-born were mainly concentrated in the local government areas of Hume (26.5%); Whittlesea (13.0%); Moreland (9.4%); Brimbank (8.0%); and Darebin (5.9%). Half (49.5%) of the Syria-born in Victoria had arrived in Australia prior to 1991; 21.4% had arrived between 1991 and 2000; and 25.0% had arrived between 2001 and 2011.

The Syria-born community reflected a balanced age profile: 12.5% were aged 25 years and below; 34.8% were aged 26-44 years; 39.1% were aged 45-64 years; and 13.5% were aged 65 years and over. The median age was 46 years, compared to 37 years for the total Victorian population. The gender ratio was 88 males to 100 females, compared to 98 males to 100 females for total Victoria.

Over one-third (34.9%) of the Syria-born followed Islam; 18.3% were Western Catholic; 10.2% were Greek Orthodox; 7.9% were Syrian Orthodox; 2.9% had no religion. Most (93.4%) spoke a language other than English; 24.5% assessed themselves as speaking English not well or not at all. Over four-fifths (83.2%) held Australian Citizenship, compared to 63.1% for the total overseas-born population in Victoria. Almost half (46.8%) of the Syria-born aged 15 years and over received a weekly personal income of less than \$400; 12.3% received no income.

Demographic Background

Persons born in Syria 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)	2,202	26.2	1,823	26.2	1,743	26.0	379	20.8	80	4.6
Rest of Victoria ^(b)	59	0.7	39	0.6	35	0.5	20	51.3	4	11.4
Total Victoria	2,261	26.9	1,862	26.7	1,778	26.5	399	21.4	84	4.7
Total Australia	8,390	100.0	6,967	100.0	6,710	100.0	1,423	20.4	257	3.8

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

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

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

Local Government Area	2011 Census		2006 Census		Rank in 2006
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
Hume	599	26.5	468	25.2	1
Whittlesea	293	13.0	174	9.4	3
Moreland	213	9.4	205	11.0	2
Brimbank	182	8.0	163	8.8	4
Darebin	134	5.9	114	6.1	6
Rest of LGAs, Metro Melb	781	34.5	697	37.5	
Rest of LGAs, Reg. Vic	59	2.6	39	2.1	
Total Victoria	2,261	100.0	1,860	100.0	

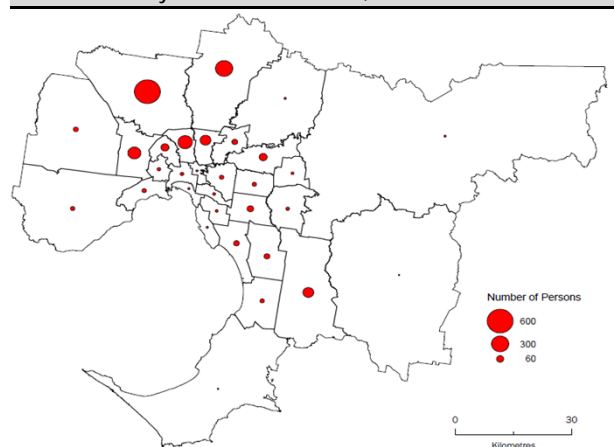
Year of Arrival of Syria-born: 2011

Year of Arrival ^(b)	Syria-born		Total OSB, Vic ^(a)	
	Persons	%	Persons	%
Before 1991	1,119	49.5	682,720	48.6
1991 - 1995	263	11.6	89,119	6.3
1996 - 2000	222	9.8	104,896	7.5
2001 - 2005	230	10.2	151,488	10.8
2006 - 2011	334	14.8	316,244	22.5
Not stated	93	4.1	60,867	4.3
Total	2,261	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 Syria-Born in Melbourne, 2011



Age Distribution of Syria-born: 2011, 2006

Age group (years)	2011 Census		2006 Census		2006-2011 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
0-4	44	1.9	18	1.0	144.4
5-11	62	2.7	47	2.5	31.9
12-18	57	2.5	63	3.4	-9.5
19-25	121	5.4	146	7.8	-17.1
26-44	786	34.8	732	39.3	7.4
45-54	531	23.5	406	21.8	30.8
55-64	353	15.6	255	13.7	38.4
65-74	195	8.6	117	6.3	66.7
75+	111	4.9	79	4.2	40.5
Total	2,260	100.0	1,863	100.0	21.3
<i>Sex Ratio</i>	<i>88</i>		<i>males per 100 females</i>		
<i>Median Age</i>	<i>46</i>		<i>43</i>		

Top 5 Religions of Syria-born: 2011, 2006

Religion	2011 Census		2006 Census		2006-2011 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
Islam	789	34.9	597	32.0	32.2
Western Catholic	413	18.3	355	19.0	16.3
Greek Orthodox	230	10.2	226	12.1	1.8
Syrian Orthodox	179	7.9	117	6.3	53.0
Eastern Orthodox, nfd	95	4.2	106	5.7	-10.4
Other religions	389	17.2	311	16.7	25.1
No religion	66	2.9	49	2.6	34.7
Not stated ^(a)	101	4.5	105	5.6	-3.8
Total	2,262	100.0	1,866	100.0	21.2

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

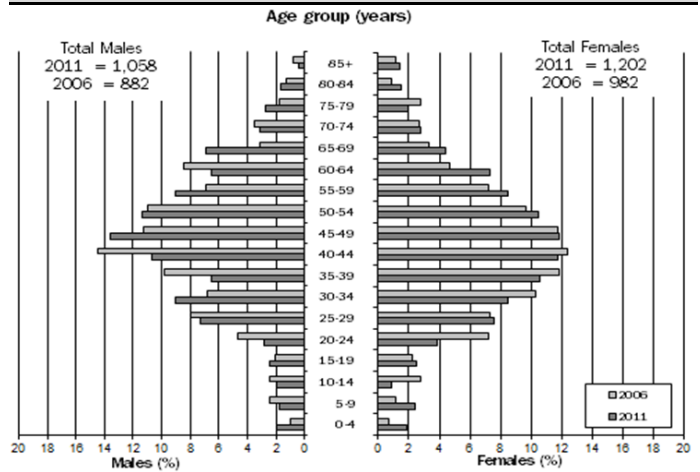
Syria-born with Australian Citizenship by Age: 2011, 2006

Age group (years)	2011 Census		2006 Census		2006-2011 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
0-4	10	0.5	14	0.9	-28.6
5-11	39	2.1	42	2.6	-7.1
12-18	44	2.3	52	3.2	-15.4
19-25	76	4.0	96	5.9	-20.8
26-44	582	30.9	609	37.4	-4.4
45-64	838	44.5	634	38.9	32.2
65-74	190	10.1	112	6.9	69.6
75+	103	5.5	71	4.4	45.1
Total	1,882	100.0	1,630	100.0	15.5

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 Syria-Born, 2011



Proficiency in English of Syria-born: 2011, 2006

Proficiency in English	2011 Census		2006 Census		2006-2011 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
Speaks English only	129	5.7	111	6.0	16.2
<i>Speaks other language and speaks English</i>					
Very well	726	32.1	666	35.7	9.0
Well	831	36.8	656	35.2	26.7
Not well	451	20.0	354	19.0	27.4
Not at all	101	4.5	59	3.2	71.2
Not stated ^(a)	22	1.0	17	0.9	29.4
Total	2,260	100.0	1,863	100.0	21.3

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

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

Total personal income (weekly) ^(a)	Syria-born		Tot Vic pop	
	Persons	%	Persons	%
Negative/Nil	264	12.3	377,766	8.7
\$1-199	193	9.0	341,700	7.8
\$200-\$399	809	37.8	882,992	20.3
\$400-\$599	240	11.2	504,498	11.6
\$600-\$799	175	8.2	459,629	10.6
\$800-\$999	114	5.3	367,453	8.4
\$1,000-\$1,499	136	6.4	584,245	13.4
\$1,500-\$1,999	44	2.1	255,935	5.9
\$2,000 or more	52	2.4	246,378	5.7
Not stated	112	5.2	334,647	7.7
Total	2,139	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.