

Demographic characteristics

At the 2016 Census, there were 18,116 Afghanistan-born persons in Victoria (38.7% of Australia’s total), ranked 19th among the overseas-born communities in Victoria. The Afghanistan-born increased by 82.2% (8,171) from 9,945 persons in 2011. Most of the Afghanistan-born live in the metropolitan LGAs of Casey (47.1%), Greater Dandenong (26.5%) and Brimbank (2.6%). A small proportion live in the regional LGAs of Greater Shepparton (4.2%) and Greater Geelong (2.8%).

The Afghanistan-born reflected a young to adult and maturing age profile: 35.6% were aged 25 years and below; 45.0% were aged 26-44 years; 16.7% were aged 45-64 years; and 2.8% were aged 65 years and over. The median age was 31 years, compared to 37 years for total Victoria. The gender ratio was 154 males to 100 females, compared to 96 males to 100 females for total Victoria.

There were 20,467 persons identified with Afghani ancestry. Most of them were born in Afghanistan (64.1%), Australia (21.7%) and Pakistan (6.0%). Only 8.3% of the Afghanistan-born in Victoria had arrived in Australia prior to 1996; 8.1% arrived in 1996-2000; 14.2% arrived in 2001-2005; 23.5% arrived in 2006-2010; and 43.2% arrived in 2011-2016.

The Afghanistan-born speak a variety of languages: Dari (45.6%), Hazaraghi (34.3%), Pashto (8.8%) and Persian (6.1%). Of those who speak a language other than English, 31.9% speak English not well/not at all. Most (91.5%) of the Afghanistan-born follow Islam. Half (49.3%) have Australian citizenship, compared to 58.3% for the total overseas-born population in Victoria.

(See p.3 on economic characteristics).

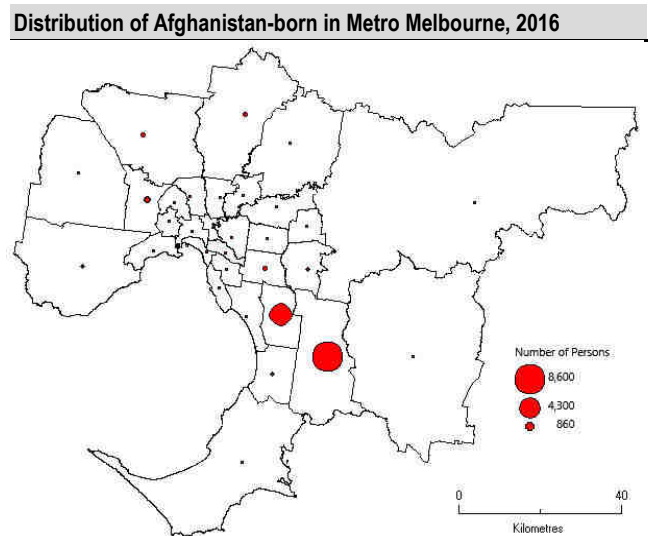
Location	2016 Census		2011 Census		2006 Census		Change 2011-2016		Change 2006-2011	
	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	% change	Persons	% change
Metro Melbourne ^(a)	16,261	34.7	8,932	31.2	4,975	29.7	7,329	82.1	3,957	79.5
Rest of Victoria ^(b)	1,857	4.0	1,011	3.5	273	1.6	846	83.7	738	270.3
Total Victoria	18,116	38.7	9,945	34.8	5,248	31.3	8,171	82.2	4,697	89.5
Total Australia	46,799	100.0	28,598	100.0	16,751	100.0	18,201	63.6	11,847	70.7

^(a) Metro Melbourne is equivalent to ABS’s Greater Capital Statistical Area.

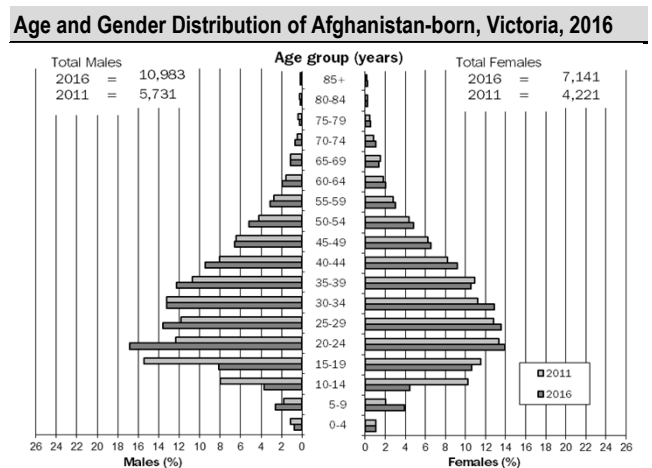
^(b) Includes "No Usual Address, Victoria" and "Offshore Areas and Migratory, Victoria".

Local Government Area (LGA)	2016 Census		2011 Census		Rank in 2011
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
Casey (C)	8,534	47.1	4,439	44.6	1
Gter Dandenong (C)	4,799	26.5	2,518	25.3	2
Gter Shepparton (C)	755	4.2	553	5.6	3
Greater Geelong (C)	511	2.8	81	0.8	12
Brimbank (C)	479	2.6	136	1.4	10
Rest of Melbourne	2,441	13.5	1,828	18.4	-
Rest of Reg Vic ^(a)	572	3.2	374	3.8	-
Total Victoria	18,116	100.0	9,945	100.0	-

^(a) Includes "Unincorporated Vic" and "No Usual Address Vic".



Age group (years)	2016 Census		2011 Census		2011-16 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
0-4	159	0.9	106	1.1	50.0
5-11	894	4.9	478	4.8	87.0
12-18	1,601	8.8	1,699	17.1	-5.8
19-25	3,800	21.0	1,817	18.3	109.1
26-44	8,148	45.0	4,067	40.9	100.3
45-54	2,101	11.6	1,060	10.7	98.2
55-64	917	5.1	440	4.4	108.4
65-74	370	2.0	189	1.9	95.8
75+	136	0.8	86	0.9	58.1
Total Victoria	18,116	100.0	9,945	100.0	82.2
Median Age	31		29		
Sex Ratio	154		136		males per 100 females



Top 5 Countries of Birth of Persons with Afghan Ancestry: 2016, 2011

Country of birth	2016		2011		2011-16 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
Afghanistan	13,114	64.1	7,380	69.0	77.7
Pakistan	1,237	6.0	457	4.3	170.7
Iran	834	4.1	152	1.4	448.7
New Zealand	146	0.7	47	0.4	210.6
India	64	0.3	44	0.4	45.5
Australia	4,448	21.7	2,191	20.5	103.0
Other ^(a)	624	3.0	423	4.0	47.5
Total responses^(b)	20,467	100.0	10,694	100.0	91.4

^(a) Includes all other countries, and birthplace not stated.

^(b) Respondents have option of nominating several ancestries; only the 1st two responses were coded. This is the total of both 1st & 2nd responses.

This table is based on the ancestry with the most responses for Afghanistan-born persons.

Top 5 Languages Spoken at Home, Afghanistan-born: 2016, 2011

Language other than English	2016		2011		2011-16 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
Dari	8,268	45.6	5,485	55.2	50.7
Hazaraghi	6,214	34.3	2,104	21.2	195.3
Pashto	1,595	8.8	1,082	10.9	47.4
Persian	1,111	6.1	762	7.7	45.8
Iranic, nfd	177	1.0	-	-	-
Other languages ^(a)	250	1.4	147	1.5	70.1
English only	397	2.2	206	2.1	92.7
Not stated	106	0.6	159	1.6	-33.3
Total Victoria	18,116	100.0	9,945	100.0	82.2

^(a) Includes "Inadequately described" and "Non-verbal, so described".

Top 5 Religious affiliation, Afghanistan-born: 2016, 2011

Religious affiliation ^(a)	2016		2011		2011-16 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
Islam	16,582	91.5	9,514	95.7	74.3
Secular Beliefs	29	0.2	8	0.1	262.5
Sikhism	22	0.1	23	0.2	-4.3
Catholic	16	0.1	11	0.1	45.5
Baptist	14	0.1	13	0.1	7.7
Other religions	81	0.4	31	0.3	161.3
No religion ^(b)	600	3.3	144	1.4	316.7
Not stated	791	4.4	201	2.0	293.5
Total Victoria	18,116	100.0	9,945	100.0	82.2

^(a) Religion based on 3 digit level of classification.

^(b) No Religion, so described.

Year of Arrival of Afghanistan-born: 2016

Year of arrival ^(a)	Afghanistan-born		Total OSB, Vic ^(c)	
	Persons	%	Persons	%
Before 1996	1,512	8.3	716,865	42.7
1996 - 2000	1,467	8.1	104,975	6.2
2001 - 2005	2,564	14.2	149,043	8.9
2006 - 2010	4,260	23.5	269,729	16.1
2011 - 2016 ^(b)	7,831	43.2	381,130	22.7
Not stated	492	2.7	58,517	3.5
Total Victoria	18,116	100.0	1,680,256	100.0

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

^(b) Arrivals up to 9 Aug 2016.

^(c) OSB stands for Overseas-born.

Proficiency in English of Afghanistan-born: 2016, 2011

Proficiency in English	2016		2011		2011-16 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
Speaks English only	397	2.2	206	2.1	92.7
<i>Speaks other languages and speaks English</i>					
Very well	5,571	30.8	3,272	32.9	70.3
Well	6,111	33.7	3,340	33.6	83.0
Not well	4,362	24.1	2,137	21.5	104.1
Not at all	1,406	7.8	760	7.6	85.0
Not stated ^(a)	263	1.5	229	2.3	14.8
Total Victoria	18,116	100.0	9,945	100.0	82.2

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

Afghanistan-born with Australian Citizenship by Age: 2016, 2011

Age group (years)	2016		2011		2011-16 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
0-4	41	0.5	18	0.3	127.8
5-11	213	2.4	231	3.7	-7.8
12-18	777	8.7	930	14.9	-16.5
19-25	1,566	17.5	958	15.4	63.5
26-44	4,072	45.5	2,656	42.7	53.3
45-64	1,911	21.4	1,185	19.0	61.3
65-74	247	2.8	164	2.6	50.6
75+	110	1.2	74	1.2	48.6
Total	8,940	100.0	6,227	100.0	43.6

% of Afghanistan-born with Australian citizenship, 2016: 49.3%

% of Overseas-born with Australian citizenship, 2016: 58.3%

Economic characteristics

The educational levels of the Afghanistan-born are lower than for total Victoria. Only 7.9% have a bachelor degree or higher, 5.9% have an advanced diploma and diploma and 10.0% have a certificate, compared to 24.4%, 9.2% and 14.4% for total Victoria. More of the Afghanistan-born (47.3%) have school education only and 22.6% have no educational attainment, compared to 38.7% and 1.0% for Victoria.

The labour force participation rate of the Afghanistan-born at 51.1% is lower than total Victoria at 60.5%. Their unemployment rate at 16.8% is higher than total Victoria at 6.6%.

The occupational patterns of the Afghanistan-born are different from those for total Victoria. Less of them work as managers (5.5%), professionals (7.2%) and clerical and administrative workers (4.3%), compared to 13.5%, 23.3% and 13.1% for Victoria. More of them are technicians and trades workers (35.8%), machinery operators and drivers (9.9%) and labourers (15.4%), compared to 13.1%, 5.8% and 9.0% for Victoria.

The industry of employment patterns of the Afghanistan-born are also different from total Victoria. More of them are employed in manufacturing (10.5%) and construction (27.9%), compared to 7.8% and 8.3% for Victoria. Less of them are employed in accommodation and food services (3.7%), professional, scientific, technical and administration (4.7%) and education and training (3.6%), compared to 6.6%, 11.4% and 8.6% for Victoria.

The weekly personal income distribution pattern for the Afghanistan-born is different from that for total Victoria. More of them (17.8%) receive nil income and 31.4% receive \$1-\$399, compared to 9.7% and 20.1% for Victoria. Less of them receive \$1,250-\$1,999 (5.7%) and \$2,000 or more (1.0%), compared to 13.6% and 7.5% for Victoria.

Highest level of educational attainment, Afghanistan-born and Total Victoria: 2016, 2011

Highest level of educational attainment ^(a)	Afghanistan-born						Total Victoria					
	2016		2011		Change 2011-2016		2016		2011		Change 2011-2016	
	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	% change	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	% change
Postgraduate Degree	243	1.5	103	1.2	140	135.9	260,039	3.9	170,382	3.9	89,657	52.6
Grad Dip & Grad Cert	77	0.5	27	0.3	50	185.2	119,226	2.5	95,352	2.2	23,874	25.0
Bachelor Degree	988	5.9	603	6.9	385	63.8	798,270	16.5	641,219	14.7	157,051	24.5
Advanced Dip & Diploma	978	5.9	427	4.9	551	129.0	447,023	9.2	364,758	8.4	82,265	22.6
Certificate	1,665	10.0	387	4.4	1,278	330.2	698,036	14.4	614,689	14.1	83,347	13.6
School Education only ^(b)	7,887	47.3	4,625	52.8	3,262	70.5	1,877,183	38.7	1,876,620	43.1	563	0.0
No Educ Attainment ^(c)	3,758	22.6	1,652	18.9	2,106	127.5	48,920	1.0	41,809	1.0	7,111	17.0
Not stated etc ^(d)	1,079	6.5	927	10.6	152	16.4	597,010	12.3	550,419	12.6	46,591	8.5
Victoria	16,665	100.0	8,754	100.0	7,911	90.4	4,845,710	100.0	4,355,243	100.0	490,467	11.3

^(a)This variable is applicable to persons aged 15 years and over.

^(b)Includes persons who completed school to between Year 8 or below, and Year 12 level.

^(c)Includes persons whose qualification is out of scope of this variable.

^(d)Includes "Inadequately described".

Labour force participation, Afghanistan-born and Total Victoria: 2016, 2011

Labour force participation ^(a)	Afghanistan-born						Total Victoria					
	2016		2011		Change 2011-2016		2016		2011		Change 2011-2016	
	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	% change	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	% change
<i>In the labour force</i>	8,508	47.0	3,681	37.0	4,827	131.1	2,929,590	49.4	2,675,478	50.0	254,112	9.5
Employed	7,075	39.1	2,966	29.8	4,109	138.5	2,736,125	46.2	2,530,635	47.3	205,490	8.1
Unemployed	1,433	7.9	715	7.2	718	100.4	193,465	3.3	144,843	2.7	48,622	33.6
<i>Not in the labour force</i>	7,961	43.9	4,862	48.9	3,099	63.7	1,610,130	27.2	1,451,593	27.1	158,537	10.9
<i>Not stated</i>	198	1.1	217	2.2	-19	-8.8	305,978	5.2	228,176	4.3	77,802	34.1
<i>Not applicable</i> ^(b)	1,454	8.0	1,188	11.9	266	22.4	1,080,919	18.2	998,793	18.7	82,126	8.2
Victoria	18,116	100.0	9,945	100.0	8,171	82.2	5,926,624	100.0	5,354,039	100.0	572,585	10.7
<i>Participation rate</i> ^(c)	51.1%		42.0%				60.5%		61.4%			
<i>Unemployment rate</i> ^(d)	16.8%		19.4%				6.6%		5.4%			

^(a)This variable is applicable to persons 15 years and over.

^(b)Persons aged under 15 years.

^(c)The participation rate represents the labour force (total employed and unemployed who are actively looking for work) expressed as a % of the civilian population aged 15 years and over, in the same age group.

^(d)The unemployment rate represents the number of unemployed persons expressed as a % of the labour force.

Occupation, Afghanistan-born and Total Victoria: 2016, 2011

Occupation ^(a)	Afghanistan-born						Total Victoria					
	2016		2011		Change 2011-2016		2016		2011		Change 2011-2016	
	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%
Managers	389	5.5	208	7.0	181	87.0	369,921	13.5	332,931	13.2	36,990	11.1
Professionals	510	7.2	294	9.9	216	73.5	636,220	23.3	564,779	22.3	71,441	12.6
Technicians and trades workers	2,536	35.8	752	25.4	1,784	237.2	358,749	13.1	350,757	13.9	7,992	2.3
Community&personal serv. wkr	792	11.2	252	8.5	540	214.3	289,348	10.6	234,380	9.3	54,968	23.5
Clerical & administrative workers	304	4.3	205	6.9	99	48.3	363,216	13.3	364,497	14.4	-1,281	-0.4
Sales workers	537	7.6	301	10.1	236	78.4	265,142	9.7	245,335	9.7	19,807	8.1
Machinery operators & drivers	701	9.9	388	13.1	313	80.7	159,193	5.8	154,542	6.1	4,651	3.0
Labourers	1,088	15.4	435	14.7	653	150.1	247,428	9.0	227,184	9.0	20,244	8.9
Not stated ^(b)	209	3.0	136	4.6	73	53.7	46,924	1.7	56,224	2.2	-9,300	-16.5
Victoria	7,075	100.0	2,966	100.0	4,109	138.5	2,736,125	100.0	2,530,635	100.0	205,490	8.1

^(a)This variable is applicable to employed persons aged 15 years and over.

^(b)Includes "Inadequately described".

Industry of Employment, Afghanistan-born and Total Victoria: 2016, 2011

Industry of employment ^(a)	Afghanistan-born						Total Victoria					
	2016		2011		Change 2011-2016		2016		2011		Change 2011-2016	
	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%
Agri, forestry, fishing & mining	156	2.2	49	1.7	107	218.4	70,052	2.6	66,176	2.6	3,876	5.9
Manufacturing	743	10.5	479	16.1	264	55.1	212,723	7.8	271,051	10.7	-58,328	-21.5
Electr, gas, water & waste	26	0.4	10	0.3	16	160.0	30,808	1.1	27,630	1.1	3,178	11.5
Construction	1,975	27.9	554	18.7	1,421	256.5	228,149	8.3	210,972	8.3	17,177	8.1
Wholesale & retail trade	862	12.2	461	15.5	401	87.0	367,953	13.4	387,813	15.3	-19,860	-5.1
Accommod & Food services	261	3.7	138	4.7	123	89.1	180,825	6.6	153,898	6.1	26,927	17.5
Transp, postal & warehousing	381	5.4	203	6.8	178	87.7	130,069	4.8	118,214	4.7	11,855	10.0
Information, Media & Telecomm	59	0.8	35	1.2	24	68.6	52,200	1.9	50,091	2.0	2,109	4.2
Finance & Insurance	102	1.4	86	2.9	16	18.6	106,669	3.9	104,701	4.1	1,968	1.9
Rental, Hiring & Real Estate	28	0.4	18	0.6	10	55.6	43,013	1.6	35,046	1.4	7,967	22.7
Prof, Scientific, Tech & Admin	329	4.7	178	6.0	151	84.8	310,711	11.4	279,422	11.0	31,289	11.2
Public Admin & Safety	162	2.3	99	3.3	63	63.6	144,321	5.3	134,949	5.3	9,372	6.9
Education & Training	253	3.6	133	4.5	120	90.2	236,276	8.6	202,317	8.0	33,959	16.8
Health Care & Soc Assistance	700	9.9	230	7.8	470	204.3	341,999	12.5	292,417	11.6	49,582	17.0
Arts, Recreation & Other serv	230	3.3	96	3.2	134	139.6	151,019	5.5	134,750	5.3	16,269	12.1
Inadeq Described/Not Stated	819	11.6	199	6.7	620	311.6	129,326	4.7	61,173	2.4	68,153	111.4
Victoria	7,075	100.0	2,966	100.0	4,109	138.5	2,736,125	100.0	2,530,635	100.0	205,490	8.1

^(a)This variable is applicable to employed persons aged 15 and over.

Total Personal Income (Weekly), Afghanistan-born and Total Victoria: 2016, 2011

Total personal income, weekly ^(a)	Afghanistan-born						Total Victoria					
	2016		2011		Change 2011-2016		2016		2011		Change 2011-2016	
	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%
Negative income	379	2.3	199	2.3	180	90.5	27,122	0.6	26,342	0.6	780	3.0
Nil income	2,972	17.8	1,190	13.6	1,782	149.7	467,934	9.7	351,430	8.1	116,504	33.2
\$1-399	5,229	31.4	3,985	45.5	1,244	31.2	975,345	20.1	1,224,693	28.1	-249,348	-20.4
\$400-\$799	3,687	22.1	1,638	18.7	2,049	125.1	1,118,244	23.1	964,124	22.1	154,120	16.0
\$800-\$1,249	2,618	15.7	734	8.4	1,884	256.7	811,256	16.7	715,662	16.4	95,594	13.4
\$1,250-\$1,999	944	5.7	257	2.9	687	267.3	658,020	13.6	491,972	11.3	166,048	33.8
\$2,000 or more	162	1.0	104	1.2	58	55.8	364,675	7.5	246,379	5.7	118,296	48.0
Not stated	677	4.1	658	7.5	19	2.9	423,108	8.7	334,649	7.7	88,459	26.4
Victoria	16,665	100.0	8,754	100.0	7,911	90.4	4,845,710	100.0	4,355,243	100.0	490,467	11.3

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

This fact sheet is available for free download at www.multicultural.vic.gov.au, which also contains the Community Profiles series for birthplace groups, with more detailed tables on a wider range of demographic and socio-economic data.

Source of data: Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Census of Population and Housing, 2016, 2011, 2006*.