

The China-Born Community in Victoria – 2016 Census (ranked 3)

Demographic characteristics

At the 2016 Census, there were 160,652 China-born persons in Victoria (31.5% of Australia’s total), ranked 3rd among the overseas-born communities in Victoria. The China-born increased by 71.1% (66,756) from 93,896 persons in 2011. They are well distributed throughout Metropolitan Melbourne, with significant concentrations in the LGAs of Monash (14.2%), Melbourne (13.3%), Whitehorse (11.6%), Boroondara (6.9%) and Manningham (6.7%).

The China-born reflected a young to mature age profile. One-third (33.3%) were aged 25 years and below; 37.1% were aged 26-44 years; 22.1% were aged 45-64 years; and 7.6% were aged 65 years and over. The median age was 31 years, compared to 37 years for total Victoria. The gender ratio was 77 males to 100 females, compared to 96 males to 100 females for total Victoria.

There were 370,644 persons identified with Chinese ancestry: 42.6% were born in China, 23.2% in Australia, 10.2% in Malaysia and 5.3% in Hong Kong. Only 13.3% of the China-born in Victoria had arrived in Australia prior to 1996; 6.3% arrived in 1996-2000; 11.8% arrived in 2001-2005; 22.6% arrived in 2006-2010; and 41.4% arrived in 2011-2016.

Most of the China-born speak Mandarin (79.8%) and Cantonese (12.4%). Of those who speak a language other than English, 29.8% speak English not well/not at all. Three-quarters of the China-born (75.6%) have no religion; 10.0% follow Buddhism. Less of them (31.0%) have Australian citizenship, compared to 58.3% for the total overseas-born in Victoria.

(See p.3 on economic characteristics).

China (excludes SARs and Taiwan)-born in Victoria and Australia: 2016, 2011 and 2006 Census

Location	2016 Census		2011 Census		2006 Census		Change 2011-2016		Change 2006-2011	
	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	% change	Persons	% change
Metro Melbourne ^(a)	155,998	30.6	90,899	28.5	54,759	26.5	65,099	71.6	36,140	66.0
Rest of Victoria ^(b)	4,657	0.9	2,996	0.9	1,802	0.9	1,661	55.4	1,194	66.3
Total Victoria	160,652	31.5	93,896	29.4	56,564	27.4	66,756	71.1	37,332	66.0
Total Australia	509,555	100.0	318,969	100.0	206,588	100.0	190,586	59.8	112,381	54.4

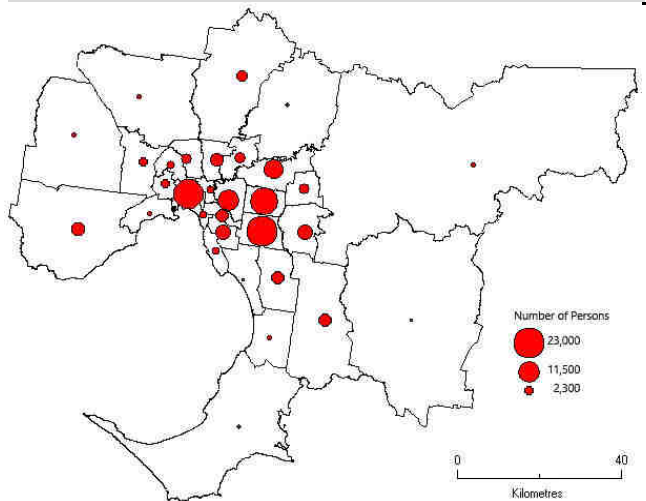
^(a) Metro Melbourne is equivalent to ABS's Greater Capital Statistical Area.
^(b) Includes "No Usual Address, Victoria" and "Offshore Areas and Migratory, Victoria".

Distribution of China-born, Top 5 LGAs: 2016 Census

Local Government Area (LGA)	2016 Census		2011 Census		Rank in 2011
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
Monash (C)	22,880	14.2	13,763	14.7	1
Melbourne (C)	21,420	13.3	7,502	8.0	3
Whitehorse (C)	18,624	11.6	11,050	11.8	2
Boroondara (C)	11,063	6.9	6,685	7.1	4
Manningham (C)	10,844	6.7	6,603	7.0	5
Rest of Melbourne	71,044	44.2	45,192	48.1	-
Rest of Reg Vic ^(a)	4,769	3.0	3,064	3.3	-
Total Victoria	160,652	100.0	93,896	100.0	-

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

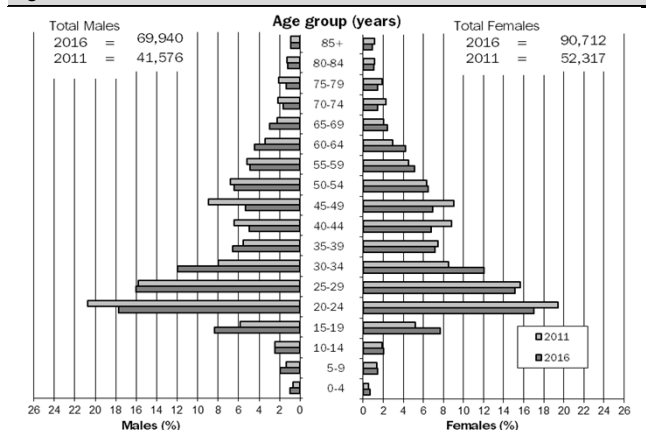
Distribution of China-born in Metro Melbourne, 2016



Age Distribution of China-born: 2016, 2011 Census

Age group (years)	2016 Census		2011 Census		2011-16 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
0-4	1,301	0.8	549	0.6	137.0
5-11	3,833	2.4	1,987	2.1	92.9
12-18	10,676	6.6	4,763	5.1	124.1
19-25	37,712	23.5	23,661	25.2	59.4
26-44	59,556	37.1	32,848	35.0	81.3
45-54	20,343	12.7	14,577	15.5	39.6
55-64	15,067	9.4	7,491	8.0	101.1
65-74	6,685	4.2	4,071	4.3	64.2
75+	5,477	3.4	3,958	4.2	38.4
Total Victoria	160,652	100.0	93,896	100.0	71.1
<i>Median Age</i>	<i>31</i>		<i>32</i>		
<i>Sex Ratio</i>	<i>77</i>		<i>79 males per 100 females</i>		

Age and Gender Distribution of China-born, Victoria, 2016



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

Country of birth	2016		2011		2011-16 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
China	157,272	42.6	91,112	35.8	73.1
Malaysia	37,624	10.2	29,442	11.6	27.8
Hong Kong	19,689	5.3	16,463	6.5	19.6
Vietnam	16,521	4.5	15,470	6.1	6.8
Singapore	9,829	2.7	8,458	3.3	16.2
Australia	86,024	23.2	60,441	23.7	42.3
Other ^(a)	43,244	11.7	33,210	13.0	30.2
Total responses^(b)	370,644	100.0	254,596	100.0	45.6

^(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 China (excludes SARs and Taiwan)-born persons.

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

Language other than English	2016		2011		2011-16 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
Mandarin	128,270	79.8	66,166	70.5	93.9
Cantonese	19,890	12.4	17,054	18.2	16.6
Chinese, nfd	6,027	3.8	5,749	6.1	4.8
Wu	739	0.5	406	0.4	82.0
Russian	482	0.3	519	0.6	-7.1
Other languages ^(a)	1,279	0.8	943	1.0	35.6
English only	3,493	2.2	2,671	2.8	30.8
Not stated	441	0.3	388	0.4	13.7
Total Victoria	160,652	100.0	93,896	100.0	71.1

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

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

Religious affiliation ^(a)	2016		2011		2011-16 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
Buddhism	16,125	10.0	14,051	15.0	14.8
Christian, nfd	3,752	2.3	1,936	2.1	93.8
Catholic	3,051	1.9	2,520	2.7	21.1
Baptist	2,726	1.7	2,179	2.3	25.1
Anglican	1,625	1.0	1,169	1.2	39.0
Other religions	5,744	3.6	4,478	4.8	28.3
No religion ^(b)	121,481	75.6	61,752	65.8	96.7
Not stated	6,159	3.8	5,811	6.2	6.0
Total Victoria	160,652	100.0	93,896	100.0	71.1

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

^(b) No Religion, so described.

Year of Arrival of China (excludes SARs and Taiwan)-born: 2016

Year of arrival ^(a)	cludes SARs and Tai		Total OSB, Vic ^(c)	
	Persons	%	Persons	%
Before 1996	21,295	13.3	716,865	42.7
1996 - 2000	10,171	6.3	104,975	6.2
2001 - 2005	18,935	11.8	149,043	8.9
2006 - 2010	36,342	22.6	269,729	16.1
2011 - 2016 ^(b)	66,563	41.4	381,130	22.7
Not stated	7,352	4.6	58,517	3.5
Total Victoria	160,652	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 China-born: 2016, 2011

Proficiency in English	2016		2011		2011-16 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
Speaks English only	3,493	2.2	2,671	2.8	30.8
<i>Speaks other languages and speaks English</i>					
Very well	37,618	23.4	21,803	23.2	72.5
Well	70,773	44.1	40,760	43.4	73.6
Not well	35,049	21.8	20,801	22.2	68.5
Not at all	12,900	8.0	7,097	7.6	81.8
Not stated ^(a)	813	0.5	761	0.8	6.8
Total Victoria	160,652	100.0	93,896	100.0	71.1

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

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

Age group (years)	2016		2011		2011-16 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
0-4	324	0.6	155	0.4	109.0
5-11	906	1.8	647	1.7	40.0
12-18	1,742	3.5	1,128	2.9	54.4
19-25	2,673	5.4	2,992	7.6	-10.7
26-44	18,241	36.6	13,186	33.7	38.3
45-64	18,905	37.9	15,539	39.7	21.7
65-74	3,517	7.1	2,715	6.9	29.5
75+	3,563	7.1	2,832	7.2	25.8
Total	49,868	100.0	39,184	100.0	27.3

% of China (excludes SARs and Taiwan)-born with Australian citizenship, 2016: 31.0%

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

Economic characteristics

The education levels of the China-born are fairly different from those for total Victoria. More of the China-born have a postgraduate degree (15.8%) and a bachelor degree (26.1%) compared to total Victoria (5.4% and 16.5%). Less of the China-born have a certificate (2.9%) compared to Victoria (14.4%). The proportion with school education is about the same, at 38.9% and 38.7% respectively.

The labour force participation rate of the China-born at 50.6% is lower than for total Victoria at 60.5%. Their unemployment rate at 11.4% is higher than for total Victoria at 6.6%.

The occupational patterns of the China-born are fairly different from those for total Victoria. More of them are managers (16.0%), professionals (27.5%) and sales workers (11.8%), compared to 13.5%, 23.3% and 9.7% for Victoria. Less of the China-born are technicians and trades workers (10.9%), clerical and administrative workers (11.0%) and machinery operators and drivers (3.0%), compared to 13.1%, 13.3% and 5.8% for Victoria.

The industry of employment patterns for the China-born are slightly different from those for total Victoria. More of them are employed in wholesale and retail trade (17.5%), accommodation and food services (13.5%), and professional, scientific, technical and administration (14.1%), compared to 13.4%, 6.6% and 11.4% for Victoria. Less of the China-born are employed in construction (5.7%) and education and training (6.2%), compared to 8.3% and 8.6% for Victoria.

The weekly personal income distribution pattern for the China-born is lower than for total Victoria. Almost one-third (32.6%) receive nil income, 18.5% receive \$400-\$799 and 12.1% receive \$1,250 or more, compared to 9.7%, 23.1% and 30.1% for Victoria.

Highest level of educational attainment, China (excludes SARs and Taiwan)-born and Total Victoria: 2016, 2011

Highest level of educational attainment ^(a)	China (excludes SARs and Taiwan)-born						Total Victoria					
	2016		2011		Change 2011-2016		2016		2011		Change 2011-2016	
	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	% change	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	% change
Postgraduate Degree	24,239	15.8	11,639	12.9	12,600	108.3	260,039	5.4	170,382	3.9	89,657	52.6
Grad Dip & Grad Cert	2,227	1.5	1,149	1.3	1,078	93.8	119,226	2.5	95,352	2.2	23,874	25.0
Bachelor Degree	40,010	26.1	22,083	24.5	17,927	81.2	798,270	16.5	641,219	14.7	157,051	24.5
Advanced Dip & Diploma	13,806	9.0	9,576	10.6	4,230	44.2	447,023	9.2	364,758	8.4	82,265	22.6
Certificate	4,476	2.9	3,081	3.4	1,395	45.3	698,036	14.4	614,689	14.1	83,347	13.6
School Education only ^(b)	59,558	38.9	34,630	38.4	24,928	72.0	1,877,183	38.7	1,876,620	43.1	563	0.0
No Educ Attainment ^(c)	2,460	1.6	1,913	2.1	547	28.6	48,920	1.0	41,809	1.0	7,111	17.0
Not stated etc ^(d)	6,444	4.2	6,009	6.7	435	7.2	597,010	12.3	550,419	12.6	46,591	8.5
Victoria	153,223	100.0	90,078	100.0	63,145	70.1	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, China (excludes SARs and Taiwan)-born and Total Victoria: 2016, 2011

Labour force participation ^(a)	China (excludes SARs and Taiwan)-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>	77,484	48.2	50,351	53.6	27,133	53.9	2,929,590	49.4	2,675,478	50.0	254,112	9.5
Employed	67,461	42.0	44,624	47.5	22,837	51.2	2,736,125	46.2	2,530,635	47.3	205,490	8.1
Unemployed	10,023	6.2	5,727	6.1	4,296	75.0	193,465	3.3	144,843	2.7	48,622	33.6
<i>Not in the labour force</i>	75,066	46.7	38,870	41.4	36,196	93.1	1,610,130	27.2	1,451,593	27.1	158,537	10.9
<i>Not stated</i>	671	0.4	858	0.9	-187	-21.8	305,978	5.2	228,176	4.3	77,802	34.1
<i>Not applicable</i> ^(b)	7,433	4.6	3,819	4.1	3,614	94.6	1,080,919	18.2	998,793	18.7	82,126	8.2
Victoria	160,652	100.0	93,896	100.0	66,756	71.1	5,926,624	100.0	5,354,039	100.0	572,585	10.7
<i>Participation rate</i> ^(c)	50.6%		55.9%				60.5%		61.4%			
<i>Unemployment rate</i> ^(d)	12.9%		11.4%				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, China (excludes SARs and Taiwan)-born and Total Victoria: 2016, 2011

Occupation ^(a)	China (excludes SARs and Taiwan)-born						Total Victoria					
	2016		2011		Change 2011-2016		2016		2011		Change 2011-2016	
	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%
Managers	10,803	16.0	6,492	14.5	4,311	66.4	369,921	13.5	332,931	13.2	36,990	11.1
Professionals	18,579	27.5	10,924	24.5	7,655	70.1	636,220	23.3	564,779	22.3	71,441	12.6
Technicians and trades workers	7,378	10.9	5,669	12.7	1,709	30.1	358,749	13.1	350,757	13.9	7,992	2.3
Community&personal serv. wkrs	5,855	8.7	4,036	9.0	1,819	45.1	289,348	10.6	234,380	9.3	54,968	23.5
Clerical & administrative workers	7,401	11.0	4,876	10.9	2,525	51.8	363,216	13.3	364,497	14.4	-1,281	-0.4
Sales workers	7,985	11.8	4,486	10.1	3,499	78.0	265,142	9.7	245,335	9.7	19,807	8.1
Machinery operators & drivers	2,009	3.0	1,764	4.0	245	13.9	159,193	5.8	154,542	6.1	4,651	3.0
Labourers	5,881	8.7	4,874	10.9	1,007	20.7	247,428	9.0	227,184	9.0	20,244	8.9
Not stated ^(b)	1,563	2.3	1,501	3.4	62	4.1	46,924	1.7	56,224	2.2	-9,300	-16.5
Victoria	67,461	100.0	44,624	100.0	22,837	51.2	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, China (excludes SARs and Taiwan)-born and Total Victoria: 2016, 2011

Industry of employment ^(a)	China (excludes SARs and Taiwan)-born						Total Victoria					
	2016		2011		Change 2011-2016		2016		2011		Change 2011-2016	
	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%
Agri, forestry, fishing & mining	414	0.6	172	0.4	242	140.7	70,052	2.6	66,176	2.6	3,876	5.9
Manufacturing	4,281	6.3	4,730	10.6	-449	-9.5	212,723	7.8	271,051	10.7	-58,328	-21.5
Electr, gas, water & waste	321	0.5	166	0.4	155	93.4	30,808	1.1	27,630	1.1	3,178	11.5
Construction	3,874	5.7	1,887	4.2	1,987	105.3	228,149	8.3	210,972	8.3	17,177	8.1
Wholesale & retail trade	11,809	17.5	9,402	21.1	2,407	25.6	367,953	13.4	387,813	15.3	-19,860	-5.1
Accommod & Food services	9,125	13.5	7,873	17.6	1,252	15.9	180,825	6.6	153,898	6.1	26,927	17.5
Transp, postal & warehousing	2,073	3.1	1,056	2.4	1,017	96.3	130,069	4.8	118,214	4.7	11,855	10.0
Information, Media & Telecomm	1,079	1.6	692	1.6	387	55.9	52,200	1.9	50,091	2.0	2,109	4.2
Finance & Insurance	3,329	4.9	1,883	4.2	1,446	76.8	106,669	3.9	104,701	4.1	1,968	1.9
Rental, Hiring & Real Estate	2,578	3.8	755	1.7	1,823	241.5	43,013	1.6	35,046	1.4	7,967	22.7
Prof, Scientific, Tech & Admin	9,532	14.1	5,757	12.9	3,775	65.6	310,711	11.4	279,422	11.0	31,289	11.2
Public Admin & Safety	979	1.5	670	1.5	309	46.1	144,321	5.3	134,949	5.3	9,372	6.9
Education & Training	4,194	6.2	2,349	5.3	1,845	78.5	236,276	8.6	202,317	8.0	33,959	16.8
Health Care & Soc Assistance	6,365	9.4	4,044	9.1	2,321	57.4	341,999	12.5	292,417	11.6	49,582	17.0
Arts, Recreation & Other serv	2,514	3.7	1,639	3.7	875	53.4	151,019	5.5	134,750	5.3	16,269	12.1
Inadeq Described/Not Stated	4,996	7.4	1,557	3.5	3,439	220.9	129,326	4.7	61,173	2.4	68,153	111.4
Victoria	67,461	100.0	44,624	100.0	22,837	51.2	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), China (excludes SARs and Taiwan)-born and Total Victoria: 2016, 2011

Total personal income, weekly ^(a)	China (excludes SARs and Taiwan)-born						Total Victoria					
	2016		2011		Change 2011-2016		2016		2011		Change 2011-2016	
	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%
Negative income	2,077	1.4	1,612	1.8	465	28.8	27,122	0.6	26,342	0.6	780	3.0
Nil income	49,911	32.6	24,718	27.4	25,193	101.9	467,934	9.7	351,430	8.1	116,504	33.2
\$1-399	30,781	20.1	24,412	27.1	6,369	26.1	975,345	20.1	1,224,693	28.1	-249,348	-20.4
\$400-\$799	28,294	18.5	17,659	19.6	10,635	60.2	1,118,244	23.1	964,124	22.1	154,120	16.0
\$800-\$1,249	21,660	14.1	11,650	12.9	10,010	85.9	811,256	16.7	715,662	16.4	95,594	13.4
\$1,250-\$1,999	13,159	8.6	5,980	6.6	7,179	120.1	658,020	13.6	491,972	11.3	166,048	33.8
\$2,000 or more	5,358	3.5	1,818	2.0	3,540	194.7	364,675	7.5	246,379	5.7	118,296	48.0
Not stated	1,980	1.3	2,222	2.5	-242	-10.9	423,108	8.7	334,649	7.7	88,459	26.4
Victoria	153,223	100.0	90,078	100.0	63,145	70.1	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*.