

At the 2011 Census, there were 2,162 Laos-born persons in Victoria (21.8% of Australia's total), increasing by 5.6% (115) from 2,047 persons in 2006. The Laos-born were distributed throughout Metropolitan Melbourne, with concentrations in the local government areas of Brimbank (15.6%); Hume (9.3%); Greater Dandenong (8.3%); Casey (8.2%); and Whitehorse (6.7%). Over three-quarters (77.0%) of the Laos-born in Victoria had arrived in Australia prior to 1991; 8.0% had arrived between 1991 and 2000; and 11.2% had arrived between 2001 and 2011.

The Laos-born community reflected a maturing age profile: 5.0% were aged 25 years and below; 42.3% were aged 26-44 years; 42.9% were aged 45-64 years; and 9.8% 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 89 males to 100 females, compared to 98 males to 100 females for total Victoria.

Three-quarters (74.1%) of the Laos-born followed Buddhism; 4.2% were Western Catholic; 11.7% had no religion. Most (90.4%) spoke a language other than English; 28.3% assessed themselves as speaking English not well or not at all. Most (89.1%) held Australian Citizenship, compared to 63.1% for the total overseas-born population in Victoria. Over one-quarter (27.7%) of the Laos-born aged 15 years and over received a weekly personal income of less than \$400; 11.0% received no income.

Demographic Background

Persons born in Laos 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)	2,038	20.5	1,936	20.7	1,904	19.9	102	5.3	32	1.7
Rest of Victoria ^(b)	124	1.2	111	1.2	120	1.3	13	11.7	-9	-7.5
Total Victoria	2,162	21.8	2,047	21.8	2,024	21.2	115	5.6	23	1.1
Total Australia	9,928	100.0	9,373	100.0	9,565	100.0	555	5.9	-192	-2.0

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

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

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

Local Government Area	2011 Census		2006 Census		Rank in 2006
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
Brimbank	337	15.6	325	15.9	1
Hume	201	9.3	189	9.2	2
Greater Dandenong	179	8.3	168	8.2	3
Casey	177	8.2	150	7.3	5
Whitehorse	145	6.7	161	7.9	4
Rest of LGAs, Metro Melb	1,000	46.3	942	46.0	
Rest of LGAs, Reg. Vic	121	5.6	112	5.5	
Total Victoria	2,160	100.0	2,047	100.0	

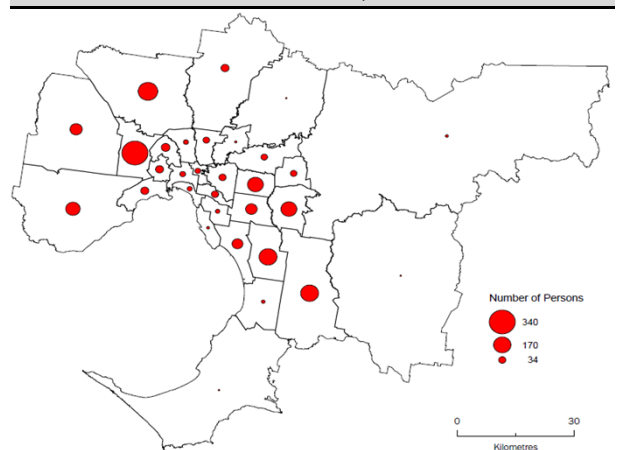
Year of Arrival of Laos-born: 2011

Year of Arrival ^(b)	Laos-born		Total OSB, Vic ^(a)	
	Persons	%	Persons	%
Before 1991	1,664	77.0	682,720	48.6
1991 - 1995	83	3.8	89,119	6.3
1996 - 2000	90	4.2	104,896	7.5
2001 - 2005	75	3.5	151,488	10.8
2006 - 2011	166	7.7	316,244	22.5
Not stated	83	3.8	60,867	4.3
Total	2,161	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 Laos-Born in Melbourne, 2011



Age Distribution of Laos-born: 2011, 2006

Age group (years)	2011 Census		2006 Census		2006-2011 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
0-4	6	0.3	4	0.2	50.0
5-11	14	0.6	9	0.4	55.6
12-18	22	1.0	14	0.7	57.1
19-25	66	3.1	127	6.2	-48.0
26-44	915	42.3	1,024	50.0	-10.6
45-54	557	25.8	490	23.9	13.7
55-64	370	17.1	217	10.6	70.5
65-74	130	6.0	110	5.4	18.2
75+	82	3.8	54	2.6	51.9
Total	2,162	100.0	2,049	100.0	5.5
<i>Sex Ratio</i>	<i>89</i>		<i>males per 100 females</i>		
<i>Median Age</i>	<i>46</i>		<i>42</i>		

Top 5 Religions of Laos-born: 2011, 2006

Religion	2011 Census		2006 Census		2006-2011 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
Buddhism	1,601	74.1	1,559	76.3	2.7
Western Catholic	90	4.2	69	3.4	30.4
Baptist	25	1.2	30	1.5	-16.7
Animism	16	0.7	11	0.5	45.5
Ancestor Veneration	13	0.6	22	1.1	-40.9
Other religions	54	2.5	41	2.0	31.7
No religion	252	11.7	215	10.5	17.2
Not stated ^(a)	110	5.1	97	4.7	13.4
Total	2,161	100.0	2,044	100.0	5.7

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

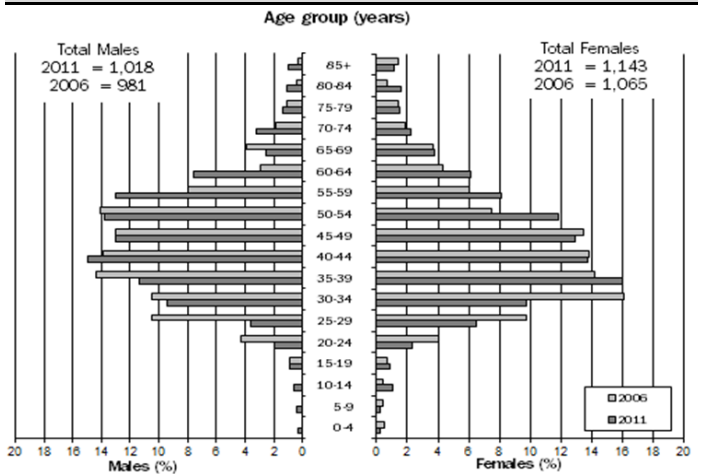
Laos-born with Australian Citizenship by Age: 2011, 2006

Age group (years)	2011 Census		2006 Census		2006-2011 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
0-4	3	0.2	-	-	-
5-11	4	0.2	-	-	-
12-18	13	0.7	5	0.3	160.0
19-25	18	0.9	82	4.4	-78.0
26-44	786	40.8	931	50.5	-15.6
45-64	899	46.7	669	36.3	34.4
65-74	127	6.6	104	5.6	22.1
75+	77	4.0	52	2.8	48.1
Total	1,927	100.0	1,843	100.0	4.6

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 Laos-Born, 2011



Proficiency in English of Laos-born: 2011, 2006

Proficiency in English	2011 Census		2006 Census		2006-2011 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
Speaks English only	191	8.8	198	9.7	-3.5
<i>Speaks other language and speaks English</i>					
Very well	607	28.1	566	27.7	7.2
Well	734	34.0	679	33.2	8.1
Not well	520	24.1	499	24.4	4.2
Not at all	91	4.2	73	3.6	24.7
Not stated ^(a)	18	0.8	32	1.6	-43.8
Total	2,161	100.0	2,047	100.0	5.6

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

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

Total personal income (weekly) ^(a)	Laos-born		Tot Vic pop	
	Persons	%	Persons	%
Negative/Nil	235	11.0	377,766	8.7
\$1-199	151	7.1	341,700	7.8
\$200-\$399	439	20.6	882,992	20.3
\$400-\$599	261	12.2	504,498	11.6
\$600-\$799	372	17.4	459,629	10.6
\$800-\$999	197	9.2	367,453	8.4
\$1,000-\$1,499	292	13.7	584,245	13.4
\$1,500-\$1,999	78	3.7	255,935	5.9
\$2,000 or more	50	2.3	246,378	5.7
Not stated	61	2.9	334,647	7.7
Total	2,136	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.