

Census 2011: Diversity in Queensland

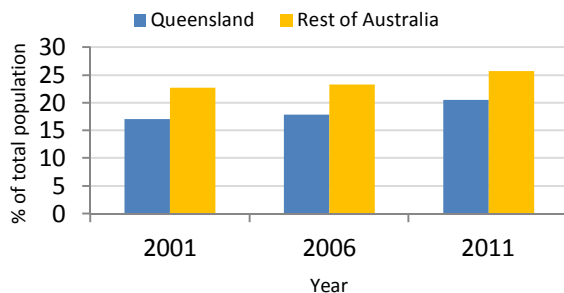
Key points:

- In 2011, 888,636 people (20.5% of the population) in Queensland were born overseas.
- 214,329 people (4.9% of the population) in Queensland were born in the United Kingdom.
- English and Australian were the main ancestries reported by Queenslanders.
- 423,841 people (9.8% of the population) in Queensland spoke a language other than English at home.
- 1.1% of the Queensland population reported they spoke a language other than English at home and spoke English either “not well or not at all”.

1. Born overseas

At the time of the 2011 Census, 888,636 people in Queensland stated they were born overseas. This represented 20.5% of Queensland’s resident population, compared with 25.7% in the rest of Australia. The number of overseas-born people in Queensland increased from 603,800 (17.1%) in 2001 to 699,448 (17.9%) in 2006 and 888,636 (20.5%) in 2011 (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Proportion of population born overseas, Queensland and the rest of Australia, 2001, 2006, 2011



Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing: 2001, 2006 and 2011 (B01a)

2. Country of birth

In 2011, the United Kingdom (214,329 people) and New Zealand (192,037 people) were the two major source countries for overseas-born Queenslanders. Together, these accounted for nearly half (45.7%) of all overseas-born people in Queensland (Table 1). There were also sizeable numbers of Queenslanders born in South Africa, India and the Philippines. In the rest of Australia, the United Kingdom was the main country of birth for overseas-born people, followed by China, New Zealand, India and Italy.

The top three source countries for overseas-born Queenslanders (United Kingdom, New Zealand and South Africa) remained unchanged between 2006 and 2011. In contrast, India rose from twelfth in 2006 (10,975 people) to fourth in 2011 (30,258 people), while Germany was ranked fourth in 2006 and seventh in 2011 and the Netherlands was ranked sixth in 2006 and tenth in 2011.

Table 1: Country of birth (a), Queensland and the rest of Australia, 2006 and 2011

Queensland	2006		2011		Rest of Australia	2006	2011
Country of birth	number	%	number	%	Country of birth	%	%
Australia	2,935,260	75.2	3,192,115	73.7	Australia	69.8	68.9
United Kingdom	193,059	4.9	214,329	4.9	United Kingdom	5.3	5.2
New Zealand	148,760	3.8	192,037	4.4	China (b)	1.2	1.7
South Africa	22,709	0.6	35,549	0.8	New Zealand	1.5	1.7
India	10,975	0.3	30,258	0.7	India	0.9	1.5
Philippines	18,707	0.5	29,463	0.7	Italy	1.2	1.0
China (b)	15,059	0.4	27,037	0.6	Vietnam	0.9	1.0
Germany	20,114	0.5	21,028	0.5	Philippines	0.6	0.8
Vietnam	13,083	0.3	16,269	0.4	South Africa	0.5	0.6
USA	12,200	0.3	15,807	0.4	Malaysia	0.5	0.6
Netherlands	15,261	0.4	14,989	0.3	Greece	0.7	0.6
Other	229,521	5.9	291,870	6.7	Other	10.0	10.9
Total overseas-born	699,448	17.9	888,636	20.5	Total overseas-born	23.3	25.7
Total (c)	3,904,533	100.0	4,332,738	100.0	Total (c)	100.0	100.0

(a) Based on the top 10 overseas countries of birth in 2011.

(b) Excludes Special Administrative Regions of Hong Kong and Macau, and Taiwan Province.

(c) Includes other, not stated and inadequately described responses.

Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing: 2006 and 2011 (B09)



3. Ancestry

At the time of the 2011 Census the main ancestries in Queensland and the rest of Australia were English and Australian (Table 2). In Queensland, 6.3% of the population reported a German ancestry, higher than in the rest of Australia (3.7%). Conversely, compared with the rest of Australia, lower proportions of the Queensland population specified an Italian ancestry (2.7% compared with 4.7%) or Chinese ancestry (2.2% compared with 4.5%).

Table 2: Top 10 ancestries (a), Queensland and the rest of Australia, 2011

Queensland		Rest of Australia	
Ancestry	%	Ancestry	%
English	37.6	English	32.7
Australian	36.7	Australian	32.1
Irish	11.2	Irish	9.3
Scottish	9.7	Scottish	8.0
German	6.3	Italian	4.7
Italian	2.7	Chinese	4.5
Chinese	2.2	German	3.7
Dutch	1.6	Greek	2.0
New Zealander	1.4	Indian	2.0
Maori	1.1	Dutch	1.6

(a) Multiple responses were allowed for this question, and therefore percentages will not sum to 100.

Source: ABS 2011 Census of Population and Housing (B08)

4. Language

4.1 Language other than English (LOTE)

At the time of the 2011 Census, 423,841 people in Queensland spoke a LOTE at home (9.8% of the population) (Table 3). This was considerably lower than the proportion of people in the rest of Australia who spoke a LOTE at home (20.3%).

In Queensland, the main LOTE spoken at home was Mandarin (0.9% of the population), followed by Cantonese (0.5%) and Vietnamese (0.5%). In the rest of Australia, the main languages were Mandarin (1.7% of the population), Italian (1.6%) and Arabic (1.6%).

Table 3: Top five languages other than English spoken at home, Queensland and the rest of Australia, 2011

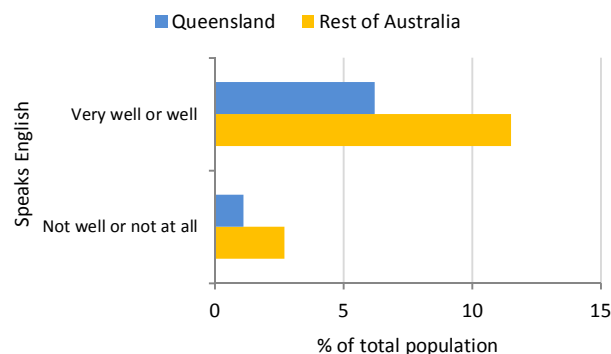
Queensland		Rest of Australia	
Language	%	Language	%
Mandarin	0.9	Mandarin	1.7
Cantonese	0.5	Italian	1.6
Vietnamese	0.5	Arabic	1.6
Italian	0.5	Cantonese	1.4
German	0.4	Greek	1.4
Total LOTE	9.8	Total LOTE	20.3

Source: ABS 2011 Census of Population and Housing (B13)

4.2 Proficiency in English

At the time of the 2011 Census, there were 45,927 people in Queensland who were born overseas, spoke a LOTE at home and spoke English 'not well or not at all' (1.1% of the population). This was considerably lower than the proportion of people in the rest of Australia who were born overseas, spoke a LOTE at home and spoke English 'not well or not at all' (2.7%) (Figure 2).

Figure 2: Proficiency in English of people born overseas(a), Queensland and the rest of Australia, 2011



(a) Where a LOTE is spoken at home.

Source: ABS 2011 Census of Population and Housing (B11)

For more information, please see OESR's *Queensland Regional Profiles and Queensland Regional Database* at www.oesr.qld.gov.au.

Note: All data presented in this bulletin are based on place of usual residence and were sourced from the Australian Bureau of Statistics' Census of Population and Housing (www.abs.gov.au).

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