

Multicultural demographics data explorer

Birthplace commentary and analysis:
Top countries of birth in NSW

2023



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Introduction

The birthplace profiles in this report show 45 countries and the characteristics (age, location, year of arrival and proficiency in English) of the NSW residents born in those countries (countries of birth). These are the largest groups with a birthplace outside Australia, including every birthplace with more than 10,000 people counted in NSW. They are based on data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics 2021 Census (2021 Census), and there are some comparisons to earlier censuses. Geographic comparisons focus on the Local Health District (LHD) distribution of each birthplace group.

Age group comparisons focus on the cohorts eligible for cancer screening and shows the percentage of each birthplace group in each cancer screening category.

The categories and age cohorts include:

- Breast screening (50–74-year-old females)
- Bowel screening (50–74-year-old persons of either sex)
- Cervical screening (25–74-year-old females)

Proficiency in English (self-reported in the Census) is shown for some birthplace groups. For groups that are primarily English-speaking and state that they normally speak English at home, proficiency is not recorded.

Each birthplace profile includes a qualitative look at potential future change, based on an assumption that existing population will age in place and that migration will continue at current levels.

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United Kingdom

The United Kingdom (UK) is a combined country of birth, consisting of England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, the Channel Islands and Isle of Man. Traditionally the UK has been Australia's largest source of migrants, and that remains the same today, with 275,351 NSW residents counted in the 2021 Census who were born in the UK. This was up slightly by 4,474 people (1.7%) since 2016 and is almost unchanged in number since 2001 (falling slightly until 2016 and then rising again). The UK-born population makes up 3.4% of the NSW total population. Twenty years ago, it was 4.4%. Fifty-five per cent of people born in the UK recorded in the 2021 Census arrived in Australia more than 30 years ago.

The UK-born population is among the most geographically dispersed in NSW, with 67.5% living in Greater Sydney. There is a clear preference for coastal locations, with Northern Sydney Local Health District (LHD) having the greatest share (20%) of the UK-born population in the state. This is followed by South Eastern Sydney LHD (14.2%) and Hunter New England LHD (9.6%). But all LHDs, except Far West, have at least 1% of the state's UK-born population. At the Local Government Area (LGA) level the largest number of UK-born is in Northern Beaches (24,147) and Central Coast (18,560).

With waves of migration going back many years, the UK-born population has an older age structure than the general population in NSW, with the majority aged 50+. All country-of-birth population groups skew away from children, as children are more likely to have been born in Australia. For those born in the UK, almost two-thirds (65%) were over the age of 50, and 18.3% were over 70 (compared to the NSW general population of 36% and 13% respectively). The UK-born population is slightly male-skewed (51.7% male), and 96.7% of the UK-born population speak English at home.

Among the cancer screening groups, 22.2% of the UK-born population falls into the breast screening cohort (50–74-year-old females) and 43.4% into the bowel screening cohort (50–74-year-old persons), both much higher than the general population averages of 14.3% and 27.9% respectively. The cervical cancer screening cohort of 25–74-year-old females has 35% of the UK-born population, which amounts to 96,410 females and is slightly higher than the general population average (31.7%) in percentage terms.

Australia is likely to continue having moderate numbers of new migrants from the UK, although the peak of this group has passed. Most UK migrants are older than the general migrant population, and this, combined with ageing of existing cohorts, is likely to continue to swell the numbers in the two older cancer screening cohorts (breast and bowel).



China

The birthplace 'China' includes mainland China and territories, excluding the Special Administrative Regions of Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan. The migration from China to Australia has been one of the major migration stories of the last two decades. In 2021 there were 247,595 residents in NSW who were born in China, a number which has tripled in 20 years since 2001 but increased much more modestly (by 13,087) between 2016 and 2021 (about 6%). The slower increase is due to many China-born students and others leaving Australia in the last two years prior to 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The China-born population is spread across several regions in Sydney, but little outside – less than 5% of the population live in regional NSW. Among the LHDs, the largest percentage of the China-born population is in Northern Sydney (25.6%), followed by Western Sydney (23.4%), Sydney (19.7%) and South Eastern Sydney (19.0%). At the LGA level, the largest number is in Parramatta (28,932, or 12%), Georges River (21,125), Canterbury-Bankstown (19,510), City of Sydney (16,583) and Ryde (16,064).

The population born in China has two peaks in age structure. The age group of 25–39 years old comprises 33% of the China-born population, and the 50–69-years-old group is 31%. These percentages likely constitute two different migration waves and differing lengths of time of being in Australia (most people migrate in their 20s and 30s). There has been a decline in the China-born population of people in their early 20s, due to the loss of university students in 2021. The China-born population is highly skewed towards females, who make up 56% of the total.

Among the cancer screening cohorts, the population in the breast screening cohort comprises 19.6% of the China-born population (compared to 14.3% of the total general population in NSW). Cervical screening is a larger cohort, taking in the majority of China-born females (46.9% of China-born population compared to 31.7% of all population in NSW). The bowel screening cohort is also over-represented due to the peak of population in the 50–74 age range, it accounts for 34.7% of all China-born (all population average is 27.9%).

The Chinese population is more likely to be recently arrived in Australia, with 37% arriving in the last 10 years, and only 14% arriving pre-1990. The Chinese-born population has one of the lowest rates of proficiency in English. Of those born in China, 36.1% self-reported poor or no English proficiency, one of the highest of the countries of birth.

The Chinese population is likely to continue to increase, now that the borders are open after the COVID-19 shutdown. The existing population will age into the 50+ cohorts in greater numbers.



India

Migration from India to Australia has been highest in the last two decades, and between 2016 and 2021 the increase in population born in India has eclipsed all other migrant groups. The 2021 Census recorded the India-born population residing in NSW is 208,962 people, making it the third-largest birthplace after Australia. This was an increase of 65,503 since 2016 (a 46% increase). Since 2001, the India-born population has increased by 171,000 people, a more than five-fold increase in 20 years, and far outpacing the growth of any other group. In the past five years, 36% of the India-born population arrived in Australia, and 56% arrived in the last 10 years.

The India-born population in NSW is spread out along ethno-linguistic lines (see the profiles for each of the major Indian languages in the online report Language commentary and analysis: Top languages used at home in NSW), but the largest share is concentrated in Western Sydney LHD, where 50.8% of the total India-born population resides (more than 100,000). Northern Sydney LHD has just over 25,000 Indian-born residents (or 12.2%), South Western Sydney LHD has 9.5% and Sydney LHD 8.2%. Smaller but significant numbers are found in all the regional LHDs. All, except the Far West, contain at least 1,000 people who were born in India.

Young adults dominate the India-born population. While many of the Indian language groups have significant numbers of children, these are not evident in a birthplace view, because young children are more likely to have been born in Australia to Indian parents. A total of 60% of the India-born population were aged 25–44 years. India is a somewhat male-dominated population, with over 14,000 more India-born males than females in NSW, for a percentage of 53.5% male.

This, coupled with the younger age profile, means that the older cancer screening cohorts (breast and bowel screening) are fairly under-represented compared to the total general population. Only 6.9% of India-born residents falls into the breast screening cohort (50–74-year-old females) while the bowel screening cohort was 14.2%. These are about half the population average in percentage terms. Because of the peak of population in the 25–44 age range, however, the cervical screening cohort was quite large, at 37.6% of India-born, compared to an average of 31.7% across all birthplace groups. With many of those born in India aged in their late 30s and 40s now, there will likely be increases in the over 50s cohorts over the next decade.

The India-born population generally has very good English proficiency. In fact, 12.8% reported that they only speak English at home, while just 4.2% spoke another language and had difficulty speaking English. Those born in India also have a very high rate of degree level qualifications compared to the general population.



New Zealand

The 2021 Census recorded 118,527 people born in New Zealand (NZ) and residing in NSW. The NZ-born population made up 1.5% of people in NSW, compared to 2.1% nationwide (a larger share of New Zealanders live in Queensland). As a population it was close to stable between 2016 and 2021, increasing by only 1,391 people (1.2%), and it has grown modestly in the last 20 years. Growth in the last five years was slowed, partly, due to the pandemic. Many New Zealand citizens returned to New Zealand during the border closures and lockdowns.

The New Zealand-born population is dispersed across NSW, without a significant concentration in any one place. The largest share is in Northern Sydney LHD (13.8%), but another three LHDs (Western, South Western and South Eastern Sydney) each house around 13%, while 8.7% live in Hunter New England. More than 1% of the NZ-born population live in every LHD, except Far West. At the LGA level, the largest number live in Blacktown (8,423 people), where they make up 2.1% of the population, but they make up the largest share (2.8%) of population in Tweed LGA, near the Queensland border.

The age structure of the NZ-born population is similar to the general population's age structure but with a smaller proportion of children. There is a broad peak in the 40–70-years-old cohort. The NZ-born population is neither male nor female dominated, with slightly more males (50.8%).

Among the age cohorts eligible for cancer screening, 19.1% of NZ-born residents in NSW are eligible for breast screening (higher than the average of 14.3% for the general population in NSW), while the bowel screening cohort is 38.5% (27.9% is the general population average). Cervical screening, applying to 25–74-year-old females born in NZ, is 38.7%, or over 45,000 females, and higher in percentage terms compared to the general population.

Eighty-six per cent of New Zealand-born residents in NSW spoke English at home (with a mix of other languages, including Maori making up the rest). The years of arrival were mixed; 9.2% arrived in Australia in the past five years, and similar numbers arrived for each five-year band of past censuses. Very few New Zealanders arrived prior to 1960.



Philippines

The 2021 Census counted 106,930 people born in the Philippines living in NSW, an increase of 20,181 people (23%) since 2016, and more than doubling since 2001.

The Philippines-born population of NSW is strongly centred in Western Sydney LHD (35.1%), but also dispersed throughout Sydney and regional NSW. South Western Sydney (15%), South Eastern Sydney (10%) and Northern Sydney have significant percentages of the population. At the LGA level, Blacktown has the largest Filipino population in Australia, with 25,292 people born in the Philippines counted there in 2021.

The Philippines-born population in NSW arrived over many years. Twenty per cent moved to Australia in the past five years and 35% in the last 10. Prior to 1990, 26% arrived, which shows there has been long-term steady migration from Philippines.

The Filipino population is one of the most female-skewed birthplace groups. The 2021 Census showed 60% of those born in the Philippines were female and living in NSW.

The age structure shows a strong peak among those aged 30–49 (comprising 44% of the Philippine-born population), and substantial numbers over 50 years old, but few over 75 years old. With the female dominated population, breast screening (22.1%) and cervical screening (51.9%) cohorts are large compared to the general population average. There are more than 55,000 women born in the Philippines who are in the cervical screening cohort, which is more than half the Philippine-born population living in NSW. Bowel screening, taking in all persons aged 50–74 years, is also a larger than average group at 33.6% of the population.

The older cancer screening cohort groups (breast and bowel) are likely to increase as the peak population aged in the 40s age into 50+ over the next five-to-10 years. Continued migration is likely to keep the population younger in relative terms.

For those born in the Philippines, 25% stated that they spoke English at home, while 2% spoke another language (mostly Filipino/Tagalog) and self-reported poor English proficiency.



Vietnam

There were 97,995 people born in Vietnam and resident in NSW at the 2021 Census. This was an increase of 13,865 (16.4%) since 2016, and an increase of more than 56% since 2001. Vietnamese migration started in the 1970s after the Vietnam War, and 41% of those born in Vietnam arrived prior to 1990.

The Vietnam-born population in NSW is concentrated in South Western Sydney LHD at 62.6%. The LGAs in the LHD with the highest shares of Vietnam-born population are Fairfield and Liverpool. Fairfield has 35%, and Vietnam is the number one birthplace after Australia in that LGA (in the suburb of Cabramatta, more people were born in Vietnam than in any other country, including Australia). Other LHDs with smaller but significant Vietnam-born populations include Sydney (12.9%) and Western Sydney (8.9%).

With migration from Vietnam to Australia starting in the 1970s, the peak age of the Vietnam-born population is now between 40–70. Few children aged under 15 were born in Vietnam, however there is a substantial number of children who speak Vietnamese and whose parents were born in Vietnam. The Vietnam-born population will continue to age into the 70–80 years old cohort over the next decade.

It is a female-skewed population, with 56% of those born in Vietnam being female. This means the two female-based cancer screening groups are quite large (22.9% of the population is in the breast screening cohort, and 47.8% is in the cervical screening cohort). This cervical screening percentage is one of the largest of the birthplace groups, and both percentages are much higher than the averages across the general NSW population of 14.3% and 31.7% respectively. Bowel screening, taking in all persons aged 50–74 is also high, at 43.4% of the Vietnam-born population (about 42,500 people).

The 2021 Census shows the Vietnam-born population has a high rate of poor English proficiency compared to other birthplace groups. Only 5% spoke English at home as their main language, while 40.5% self-reported they had little or no English proficiency (the remainder spoke mainly Vietnamese at home but reported good English proficiency). This means that any targeted campaign for the cancer screening groups would need to be in the Vietnamese language.



The 2021 Census counted 64,946 people born in Nepal and resident in NSW. Most of these people arrived from 2006 onwards, and the population increased by over 32,000, more than doubling since 2016. The Nepalese migration to Australia has been well documented and has been the fastest growing migration group over the past 15 years. Nepal is now the seventh largest country of birth for the NSW population. Seventy-five per cent of the Nepal-born population arrived in the past 10 years.

The Nepalese population is geographically spread across NSW, with the majority in the Greater Sydney region. The largest share is in Western Sydney LHD (28.4%), followed by South Eastern Sydney LHD (21.9%) and Sydney LHD (19.9%). At the LGA level, Cumberland City Council has the largest number (10,055 born in Nepal), followed by Georges River Council (8,748) and Bayside Council (4,683).

Although not a large share of the state's total, the Nepalese are important communities in places such as Dubbo, Albury, and Queanbeyan in regional NSW, where they make up a larger percentage of a small overseas-born community.

The Nepalese population in NSW is mostly in the young adult age range from early 20s to early 40s, including students and people in the workforce. Eighty-six per cent of the population are aged between 20–39, and not many are over the age of 50 or under 15 years (many Nepalese people have children who were mostly born in Australia).



Lebanon

The Lebanon-born population in NSW increased 10.3% (5,912 people) from 2016 to a total of 63,293 in 2021. Since 2001, this population group has had about 10,000 people migrate to NSW from Lebanon. Most Lebanese migration occurred in the 1970s and 1980s (57% arrived pre-1990).

The Lebanese-born population in NSW is concentrated in South Western Sydney (38.5%) and Western Sydney (29.4%) LHDs. All other LHDs had less than 10% of the total population each, and 97% of those born in Lebanon were in Greater Sydney. At the LGA level, by far the largest number (21,434, or about one-third of the total) was in Canterbury-Bankstown (note that this LGA crosses two LHDs), followed by Cumberland.

The population born in Lebanon is largely middle-aged, with a peak between approximately 40–75 years. It is a rapidly ageing population, with recent migration mainly being in the family stream and older than those in the skilled stream. The population is slightly male-skewed (51.6%).

In terms of the cancer screening age cohorts, this age structure puts the majority (51.8%) of population squarely in the bowel screening group. In fact, Lebanon has one of the highest proportions of population of any birthplace group in this cohort. The breast screening group (females 50–74) is also high, at 25.8% of the total population. The cervical screening cohort is also quite large comprising 41% of the population.

Almost 10% of the population born in Lebanon speak English at home. However, of the remainder, there was quite a high rate (21.1%) with self-reported poor or no English proficiency.

The population born in Lebanon is likely to grow slowly, with substantial ageing into and beyond the older cancer screening cohorts.



Iraq

The 2021 Census recorded 55,353 people residing in NSW who were born in Iraq, making it the ninth largest country of birth after Australia. The Iraq-born population grew by 15,082 people (38%) over five years, and has grown by almost 40,000, more than tripling, over 20 years. Forty-nine per cent of the Iraq-born population have arrived in Australia since 2011.

The geographic distribution of the Iraq-born population is more concentrated than most, with 79% living in one LHD — South Western Sydney. Eleven per cent were recorded in the Western Sydney LHD, and very few live elsewhere. At the LGA level, 24,983 were living in Fairfield City Council (45%), and 14,308 (26%) in neighbouring Liverpool City Council. In Liverpool, Iraq is the number one country of birth after Australia.

The Iraq-born population has high proportions in a range of age groups from early 20s to early 60s. The largest peak is 30–34-year-olds. There are a lot of people in the middle-age range, reflecting refugee migration, which tends to be older than skilled migration. There are few 0–4-year-old children, as most children with Iraqi parents in Australia are born in Australia. There are, however, a substantial number of teenage children in Australia who were born in Iraq.

Among the cancer screening population age groups, Iraq-born has an average percentage of breast screening cohort (14.6%), a slightly above average percentage of bowel screening cohort (30.4%), and a high rate of population in the cervical cancer screening cohort (37.6%). The population is evenly split between males and females (50-50). With moderate further migration, and ageing of the existing community, the older cohorts (breast and bowel screening) are likely to increase in number and percentage of population.

The Iraq-born population has one of the higher rates of poor English proficiency in NSW, with 32.4% of population self-reporting difficulty speaking English. The most common languages spoken are Assyrian Neo-Aramaic and Chaldean Neo-Aramaic, along with Arabic.



South Korea (Republic of Korea)

The 2021 Census recorded 53,046 people born in South Korea residing in NSW. There were a further 58 people born in North Korea. The South Korean population in NSW has almost doubled since 2001, but barely changed between 2016 and 2021 (+1,230, 2.3%) due to high student numbers in this population leaving Australia during the COVID-19 pandemic border closures.

Ninety-three per cent of the Korea-born population is found in Greater Sydney, with 36% in Western Sydney LHD, 29% in Northern Sydney LHD and 18.5% in Sydney LHD. The Western and Northern Sydney communities are really one group, with the largest LGA populations being in Parramatta (11,074) followed by Ryde (4,816), Cumberland, The Hills, Canterbury-Bankstown and Hornsby.

The age structure of the Korean population is largely between 25–54 years (64%). The peak is 35–44 years. This represents an established community with a mix of arrival years. While 13% arrived between 2016 and 2021, a substantial number arrived during the 1980s and 1990s. The student groups, who are mainly aged in their early 20s, are still present but declined substantially in number between 2016 and 2021.

In terms of cancer screening cohorts, the Korean population is female skewed (54.5% female). This, combined with the age structure, leads to a higher than average percentage of population in the breast screening cohort (16%) and a high percentage in the cervical cancer screening cohort (46.6%) due to the majority of the Korean population aged between 25–74. The bowel screening cohort, which includes all persons aged 50–74 is slightly higher (29.1%) than the population average across all birthplaces (27.9%).

The Korean population has a high rate of poor English proficiency. In 2021, 31.2% of the Korea-born population indicated they spoke another language (mainly Korean) and spoke English poorly or not at all. This indicates that a targeted screening promotion in Korean could be beneficial, as it would reach a large target group with poor English proficiency.

The Korean population is likely to continue to grow as young people return to study in Australia, while the existing population who have arrived over many years will continue to age.



South Africa

The 2021 Census recorded 49,740 people born in South Africa residing in NSW. This was an increase of 6,682 people (15.5%) since 2016. The South African-born population has grown steadily over many years, with a mixture of arrival dates through the 1980s, 1990s and 2000s.

The age structure reflects this, with the South African-born population peaking in age among people in their 30s, 40s and 50s. About half the population is aged between 35–59, with relatively few children of any age born in South Africa. There is a significant number of people in their 60s, and in the 80+ age bracket there are relatively few.

The South African-born population is quite spread out, with the largest share in Northern Sydney LHD (27.9%), followed by South Eastern Sydney (20.9%) and Western Sydney (12.8%). The population is more likely to be found in high socio-economic areas of Sydney, and there are significant numbers also in the Hunter New England LHD and Illawarra Shoalhaven LHD. At the LGA level, Northern Beaches (4,009), Ku-ring-gai (3,740) and Waverley (3,097) have the largest numbers.

In terms of cancer screening groups, the population has a fairly even male-female split. But because of the age structure there are high percentages in all three major cancer screening groups. The breast screening cohort makes up 18.4% of the South African-born population, bowel screening 36.7% and cervical screening 40% (all above their respective averages across all birthplace groups). All these groups are over-represented because they contain the bulk of the age groups for the South African-born population. As this population continues to age, with modest migration numbers but a large existing population, the bowel and breast screening age groups aged 50–74 will continue to increase, though more of the population will be ageing out of these as well.

The South African-born population in NSW had 80% of the population speaking English at home, and of those who spoke another language (commonly Afrikaans), almost all spoke English well or very well.



Hong Kong

Hong Kong is a Special Administrative Region (SAR) of China but is recorded as a separate birthplace in the Australian Bureau of Statistics census. The 2021 Census recorded 48,129 people born in Hong Kong and resident in NSW. This is an increase of 5,782 (13.7%) since 2016 – the largest for this population group in the past 20 years. Much of the Hong Kong-born population arrived in Australia in the 1980s and 1990s but there was an influx in the 2016–2021 period.

Those born in Hong Kong are overwhelmingly residing in Greater Sydney. The largest share, much more than the Chinese population, is in the Northern Sydney LHD (36.5%), followed by South Eastern Sydney LHD (19.5%), Western Sydney LHD (18.9%) and Sydney LHD (14.5%). Very few live in regional NSW. At the LGA level, the largest numbers are in Parramatta (5,779), followed by Ku-ring-gai (3,602), Georges River (3,597), Ryde (3,587) and Willoughby (2,788). These are higher socio-economic areas within Sydney.

The age structure of the Hong Kong-born population shows two clear peaks, probably representing the older (1980s–1990s) and more recent (2016–2021) waves of migration. There is a peak among those aged 30–44 (26%) and a larger peak for ages 55–74 (37%). There are very few children born in Hong Kong living in NSW. The latter peak means that the cancer-screening age cohorts are over-represented among the Hong Kong-born population. The population is also female-skewed (53.1% female).

In total, 23.7% of the Hong Kong-born population is in the breast screening cohort and 42.8% are in the bowel screening cohort. These are large due to the earlier wave of migration which sees ages 50–74 over-represented in the Hong Kong-born population. The cervical screening group is also large, as it takes in both peaks of population (25–74-year-old females make up 44.2% of Hong Kong-born compared to 31.7% of the total population).

Those born in Hong Kong primarily speak either English or Cantonese at home and have a much higher rate of English proficiency than those born in China (excluding SAR). Only 11.9% of Hong Kong-born indicated poor English proficiency at the 2021 Census, less than a third of the rate of those born in China.



The 2021 Census recorded 47,197 people born in Italy and resident in NSW, a decrease of 2,279 people since 2016. Italy is now the thirteenth largest country of birth in NSW, while in 2001 it was fifth. Italy represents an older, post-Second World War wave of migration and the rate of migration has fallen a quarter over the past 20 years. The 2021 Census showed that 75% of the Italy-born population arrived in Australia pre-1990 and 32% arrived pre-1960.

Because of this, the Italian population is among the most elderly groups in NSW, with almost two-thirds (64%) aged over 65, and the largest age cohort is 85+. Only 2% of Italian-born are aged under 25.

The Italian-born population is geographically distributed throughout NSW, but the largest share remains in the Sydney LHD (22.3%), followed by South Western Sydney LHD (18.3%) and South Eastern Sydney LHD (14.6%). There are smaller percentages in regional areas, with Illawarra Shoalhaven, Hunter New England and Murrumbidgee LHDs all recording single digit percentages of Italian population.

At the LGA level, the largest number is in Canada Bay (3,435), which includes Drummoyne, a well-known older place for Italian migration. This was followed by Canterbury-Bankstown, Fairfield, and Inner West, which includes the Italian enclave of Haberfield. In regional NSW, Griffith is well known for its Italian migrants. The town has 845 people who were born in Italy (3.1% of the Italian-born population in NSW), however 25% of the general population in Griffith has Italian ancestry.

Among the cancer screening groups, breast screening eligible females was 19.7% and bowel screening age persons 41.2%. These figures are likely to decline due to the Italian population ageing past the screening eligibility. The cervical screening cohort was 26.3% of Italy-born, compared to 31.7% of total population across all birthplaces. Unusually, for an elderly population, males in Italy outnumber females (52% male).

While 26% of those born in Italy spoke English at home, a further 14% had self-reported poor English proficiency, while speaking another language (mainly Italian) at home. Though not high compared to some groups, this is a high rate of poor English proficiency for a group which has been in Australia for some time and may indicate an elderly population having difficulty speaking English as their second language.



Malaysia

There were 39,555 people born in Malaysia recorded in NSW at the 2021 Census, an increase of 7,900 people and a significant 25% rise since 2016, as well as almost doubling since 2001.

The largest share of the Malaysia-born population is in Northern Sydney LHD (23.3%), followed by Western Sydney LHD (19.5%), Sydney LHD (17.7%) and South Eastern Sydney LHD (16.8%). As a group, the population is fairly dispersed throughout Greater Sydney. Eighty-seven per cent is in Greater Sydney, and the remainder is in regional NSW.

At the LGA level, the largest numbers of Malaysia-born residents are in Canterbury-Bankstown (3,072), Parramatta (2,953) and the City of Sydney (2,780). In total, 14 LGAs in Greater Sydney have more than 1,000 people each who were born in Malaysia.

Migration from Malaysia to Australia started in the 1970s and has continued throughout the years. Twenty-two per cent of the Malaysia-born population arrived in the past five years, 33% in the past 10, and 37% arrived pre-1990. This is reflected in the age structure, which has a broad peak between the ages of 25 and 74, leading to a high share in the cervical cancer screening cohort. There are few children, some university students, and few people over 75, but this is about to change as the population continues to age. This age profile represents multiple waves of migration which continue today. The Malaysian population is slightly female-skewed (51.8% female).

Among the cancer screening cohorts, there were 19.7% of the Malaysia-born population in the breast screening cohort (50–74 females), and 34.9% in the bowel screening cohort (50–74 persons), both higher than average in percentage terms but not extremely high. The cervical screening cohort of 25–74-year-old females is particularly high, comprising 42.7% or 16,888 females.

Over one-third of the Malaysian-born population (33.7%) spoke English as their primary language at home, while the remainder spoke a mix of languages, including Chinese languages and Malay, and 10.7% stated they have difficulty speaking English. This is in the lower-middle range among all birthplace groups.

The Malaysian population will likely continue to increase at a moderate level, with migration among a range of age groups expected to increase the cancer screening cohort population.



Indonesia

The 2021 Census recorded 37,907 people born in Indonesia and resident in NSW, an increase of 6,133 people in five years (19% increase), and almost doubling since 2001.

The Indonesian population has arrived in Australia over many years, but 35% has been in the country less than 10 years, and 19% arrived prior to 1990.

Of those born in Indonesia, 89% are in Greater Sydney. At the LHD level, South Eastern Sydney LHD has the largest share (33.2%), followed by Sydney LHD (18.2%) and Western Sydney LHD (14.4%). The inner suburbs of Sydney have the largest concentration, with the City of Sydney (5,786) having significantly more born in Malaysia than any other LGA. This was followed by Bayside (4,460), Canterbury-Bankstown (4,179) and Randwick (2,058). In the City of Sydney, Indonesia is the fourth largest birthplace after Australia.

As with many birthplace groups, Indonesia has a young working-age population distribution, with a peak age range of 20–49 (65% of the Indonesia-born population). This includes a significant student population as well as skilled migrants for employment. The population is substantially skewed towards females, who make up 56%.

Among the cancer screening cohorts, there is a relatively lower rate of bowel screening population (25.4% of the population is in the 50–74 age group), and an average rate of breast screening (14.7% females aged 50–74). The largest screening cohort is cervical screening because it incorporates younger females from the age of 25. It makes up 46% of those born in Indonesia, almost 17,500 people.

A relatively low rate of 9.7% of those born in Indonesia had poor English proficiency (self-reported), while almost twice that (17.2%) spoke English as their primary language at home.

Indonesia, being a near neighbour to Australia, continues to provide moderate to high levels of migration, which should continue while the borders remain open. Increases of this population are likely to continue in the cancer screening cohorts.



There were 37,370 people born in Fiji and resident in NSW at the 2021 Census, an increase of 3,491 people (10%) since 2016, and increasing at a modest rate, by over 10,000 since 2001.

Among the countries of birth in NSW, Fiji constitutes the largest number of people from a Pacific Island nation, and is the sixteenth largest group in the state as of 2021.

Fiji-born people are mainly in the Western Sydney (37%) and South Western Sydney (31.3%) LHDs, while there are small pockets in the Hunter New England and Murrumbidgee LHDs in regional NSW. At the LGA level, Blacktown has the largest number (7,576 or 20%), followed by Liverpool (6,915), Campbelltown and Canterbury-Bankstown. In Liverpool, Fiji is the third largest birthplace group after Australia.

The Fiji-born population has a broad age distribution, reflecting migration over a number of years (less than 10% arrived in the five years prior to 2021, while 34% arrived pre-1990). Peak age is roughly 35–69 years old, comprising 71% of the Fiji-born population. There are few children (as with other groups, young children are more likely to be born here to parents born overseas), and few over the age of 80. The Fiji-born population is female skewed (53% female).

Among the cancer screening cohorts, there are higher than average shares. A total of 22.7% of Fiji-born people are in the breast screening cohort (the general population average is 14.3%), while 42.1% is in the bowel screening cohort (27.9% for total general population), and 46.7%, one of the largest shares for any birthplace group, is in the cervical screening cohort.

Many of those born in Fiji spoke English at home (23%), and while the remainder spoke languages other than English (including Fijian), only 3.2% of those reported difficulty in speaking English. So while the Fijian population may have worthwhile numbers for a screening campaign, it is unlikely to gain extra traction by being provided other than English language resources/campaigns.



United States of America

The 2021 Census recorded 34,832 residents of NSW who were born in the United States of America (USA), an increase of 4,751 (16%) since 2016 and an 80% increase in the 20 years since 2001.

The USA-born population has arrived in Australia over many years, including 23.2% in the five years prior to 2021. USA migration tends to be business and family-based, and the largest share live in the higher socio-economic areas of Sydney. The Northern Sydney LHD has the highest proportion (24.1%), followed by South Eastern Sydney LHD (18.4%) and Sydney LHD (12.4%). But it is quite dispersed, with every LHD, excluding the Far West, containing at least 1% of the USA-born population.

At the LGA level, the largest number born in the USA were in Northern Beaches (2,958), City of Sydney (2,819) and Inner West (1,782). In regional NSW, the largest numbers were in Wollongong and Newcastle.

The USA-born population has an age structure more similar to the total population of NSW than most birthplace groups, with just a moderate peak of population in the employment-related 25–44 year old cohort, and relatively few aged 85+. There are quite significant numbers of children of all ages in the USA-born population as well, indicating that much of the migration is comprised of families.

Among the cancer screening cohorts, USA-born is slightly female skewed (52.2% female), leading to a slightly higher percentage of population being in the cervical screening cohort (37.5% of USA-born compared to 31.7% of total general population). The other cohorts based on 50–74 years old are close to the population average, reflecting the similarity of overall age structure. The breast screening cohort makes up 14.2% of USA-born and bowel screening 28.7%. The higher percentage of females in the USA-born population is almost all in the 25–49 age group, the older population is unusually male-skewed.

As an English-speaking country, 88% of those born in the USA spoke English at home. USA migration has continued at a relatively low rate for many years and is expected to continue. The population will age along with the general population of NSW, meaning the older screening cohorts (bowel and breast) will increase modestly.



Pakistan

There were 33,902 people born in Pakistan and resident in NSW recorded at the 2021 Census. This was an increase of 9,738 people (38%) since 2016, and the population has increased five-fold since 2001. Pakistan has been a significant source of new migrants to Australia in the last decade, with 62% moving to NSW since 2011.

Like many birthplace groups, the Pakistan-born population is concentrated in the Greater Western Sydney region, with Western Sydney LHD containing 44% and South Western Sydney LHD 23%, while a further 10% live in the Sydney LHD. In total, 91% live in Greater Sydney. At the LGA level, the largest numbers are in Blacktown (6,175), Canterbury-Bankstown (5,288) and Cumberland (4,787). Parramatta, Liverpool, The Hills and Campbelltown LGAs all have over 1,000 people born in Pakistan.

The Pakistan-born population is relatively young, with peak migration among those in their 20s leading to 63% of the population being aged between 20 and 44 years (34% of the total general population in NSW are in this age group). There are very few over 60, but a small increasing number in their 50s, as the older migrants who arrived more than 10 years ago age in place. There are few young children (most of those would be born here) but significant numbers of school-age children 5–14 years old, indicating that they are migrating with one or more parents. The Pakistan-born population is one of the most male-skewed in NSW (58.2% male and 41.8% female).

This, along with the young age structure, impacts the cancer screening cohorts. The older cohorts make up a much lower share of Pakistan-born than total population. The breast screening cohort is just 5.7% (1,934 people), while bowel screening comprises 14% – both around half the general population average. Cervical screening as a proportion is around the population average (31.8%) – despite large numbers of people aged in their 20s to 40s, the majority male population reduces this somewhat.

There was generally good English proficiency among the Pakistan-born population, who primarily speak Urdu, but a relatively small percentage of 5.6% (1,884 people) indicated difficulty speaking English.

There is no indication of migration from Pakistan slowing, so it is expected this population will continue to increase.



Thailand

The 2021 Census counted 31,633 people born in Thailand and resident in NSW. This was an increase of 4,914 since 2016 (18%), and the population has tripled since 2001. Most Thai migrants have arrived in Australia since 2001, with 44% of those in NSW arriving since 2011.

The Thai-born population is spread through much of Greater Sydney, Illawarra, Hunter New England, and a few in other regional areas. The largest share is in South Eastern Sydney LHD (26.6%), followed by Sydney LHD (16.3%), South Western Sydney LHD and Northern Sydney LHD (both close to 13%).

At an LGA level, by far the largest numbers are in the City of Sydney (6,381), followed by Bayside Council (1,607) and Fairfield (1,526). But there are 20 LGAs in NSW with at least 500 people who were born in Thailand.

The population born in Thailand shows a young-working age profile, with the largest share aged 25–49 years (69% of total Thai-born are in this age group but only 34% of total population across all birthplaces). There are smaller but increasing populations aged over 50 but very few aged over 70 or under 15. The population born in Thailand is the most gender imbalanced of all birthplace groups, with 21,704 females and 9,929 males. This is a ratio of 68% female.

This leads to the highest percentage of population in the cervical screening age cohort (25–74 year old females) of any birthplace, at 61.3% or 19,396 females. This number is larger than many countries of birth in NSW. The bowel screening cohort, on the other hand, only contains 17.7% of the Thailand-born population, as there are relatively few Thailand-born people over the age of 50. But the large proportion of females almost compensates for this in the breast screening category, where 50–74-year-old females make up 13.6% of total Thailand-born population, compared to an average across all birthplaces of 14.7%.

Those born in Thailand speak a range of languages including 18.2% speaking English at home. But quite a high percentage (20.7%) of Thai-born indicated they had poor or no English proficiency.

With the ageing of the current population predominantly aged in their 30s and 40s, the next decade will see substantial increases in Thai-born population entering the cancer screening groups, particularly breast screening females. And it is likely that Thai migration will continue at a moderate to high level for some time.



Sri Lanka

On census day in 2021, there were 31,427 people born in Sri Lanka recorded in NSW, up by 2,695 (9%) from the five years prior. Sri Lanka is a part of the large wave of migration from the Indian subcontinent over the past 20 years, and the number has approximately doubled since 2001. The Sri Lankan population arrived over a longer time than other subcontinent countries of origin, with 12.9% in the last five years, 27.5% in the last 10 years, and 23.9% prior to 1990.

Like other subcontinent groups, the Sri Lankan-born population is heavily concentrated in Western Sydney LHD, where 52% of the state's Sri Lanka-born population resides. There was a smaller significant group in Northern Sydney LHD (15%), followed by Sydney LHD (9.1%) and South Western Sydney LHD (6.9%).

At the LGA level, the largest numbers are found in Blacktown (6,037), Cumberland (4,329) and Parramatta (3,254) followed by The Hills Shire and Hornsby (which falls into Northern Sydney LHD but is part of the same arc across the north-west suburbs).

The Sri Lankan-born population is older than many groups from the Indian subcontinent, and the age structure represents steadier migration over a longer period. There is a broad peak of population in ages 30–74, which comprises 78% of the total Sri Lankan-born population, and very few children of any age born in Sri Lanka (young children are more likely to be born in Australia). There are slightly more males than females (50.8% male).

Among the cancer screening groups, 37.2% of the Sri Lankan-born population fall into the bowel screening cohort (compared to 27.2% across all birthplaces), while 18.4% were in the breast screening cohort (50–74-year-old females), also a little higher than the total population percentage. Cervical screening takes in the bulk of the female population born in Sri Lanka, as most of the population are between ages 25–74. So this group comprises 40.5% of the total (compared to 31.7% across all countries of birth).

The Sri Lankan-born population spoke mainly Sinhalese and Tamil with a significant minority (21%) speaking English at home. Only 5.3% self-reported poor English proficiency, which is relatively low.

The Sri Lankan-born population is likely to continue to grow at a slow-moderate level with continued migration, but particularly will continue to age into the older screening cohorts as the largest share of the population in their late 30s–40s move into their 50s.



Bangladesh

The 2021 Census recorded 21,600 people born in Bangladesh and resident in NSW, an increase of 5,383 (22%) since 2016, and the population has increased five-fold since 2001. Of the Bangladeshi population in NSW, 42.6% had arrived in the past 10 years.

Ninety-four per cent of the Bangladesh-born population live in Greater Sydney, particularly in Western Sydney LHD (32.8%), and an even split between Sydney LHD (20.9%) and Western Sydney LHD (20.7%). In South Eastern Sydney LHD there was 12.9% recorded.

At the LGA level, 7,334 people born in Bangladesh live in Canterbury-Bankstown (note this LGA is split between two LHDs), 5,504 in Campbelltown LGA, and 3,196 in Blacktown. These three LGAs comprise almost 60% of the Bangladesh-born population.

Like many groups from the Indian subcontinent, the Bangladesh-born population is a young, working-age profile. The peak age group is between 25–49 years, which makes up 71% of the population group. There are very few people in this population who are over 50 years old, though the population is likely to age into this age group soon. Bangladesh-born is male-skewed (53.9% male).

These age factors generate a relatively small bowel screening cohort for this population (15.6%) as well as breast screening (6.2%) since they relate to people over 50. The cervical screening cohort is larger (39.7%) compared to the general population average of 31.7%.

The Bangladesh-born population has a lower rate of English proficiency (higher rate of poor English proficiency) than many other population groups from the subcontinent, but it's not high in overall terms. In 2021, 6.5% of those born in Bangladesh reported poor English proficiency, while 6.1% spoke English as their main language at home.

Bangladesh migration continues, after a pause due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the numbers are expected to increase.



Greece

There were 29,399 people born in Greece who were residing in NSW at the 2021 Census. This was almost unchanged (decline of 82 people) since the 2016 Census but has fallen by 7,421 (20%) since the 2001 Census, when it was the tenth largest overseas birthplace. Greece is now the twenty-second largest group.

Greece is primarily a residual population from earlier migration waves. Only 6% of Greece-born people arrived in the past 10 years, while 85% were pre-1990 and 21% were pre-1960.

This affects the age structure. Like those born in Italy, Greece-born people are predominantly elderly, with the peak age cohort being 75–79 years old, and 75% are past the retirement age of 65.

The LGA of Canterbury-Bankstown had the largest share of the Greek-born population (7,072 people), followed by Bayside (3,927). They are mostly in the Canterbury part of Canterbury-Bankstown, which is in the Sydney LHD, containing 30.9% of total Greek-born population. The South Eastern Sydney LHD has the largest share (32.3%), which include Bayside, Georges River, and Randwick LGAs. Inner West and Sutherland Shire make up the rest of the LGAs with more than 1,000 people born in Greece. Greater Sydney hosts 92% of the Greek-born population.

With an older age profile in this population group, the female-skewed population (53.2% female) is expected, and the cancer screening cohorts for ages 50–74 are also expected to have high rates.

This is the case, though the numbers are somewhat lower than expected because a large share of the Greek population is older than 74 years. In total, 39.7% of those born in Greece are in the bowel screening group (50–74 age persons) and 20.9% in the breast screening group (50–74 age females). The cervical screening group is relatively small, comprising 7,108 females aged 25–74, or 24.2% of total Greek-born (compared to 31.7% of total population across all birthplaces).

With little migration from Greece, it's likely that this population will continue to age, so expect declining numbers born in Greece and declines in all the screening cohorts. However, the Greek population has one of the highest rates of poor English proficiency. While 10% spoke English at home, the remainder spoke other languages, primarily Greek, and 30.2% had difficulty speaking English (self-reported), one of the higher rates among any birthplace group.



Germany

The 2021 Census recorded 28,921 people born in Germany in NSW. This was a small decline of 620 people (2%) since 2016, and about 8% since 2001. This population has been declining slowly for some time, with most arriving in Australia more than 30 years ago (61% prior to 1990 and 33% prior to 1960). The peak of German migration to Australia was after the Second World War. But there is still some recent migration from Germany, with 15% arriving in the past 10 years.

Like other European countries of birth, the German-born population is older, though not quite as elderly as Italy and Greece, with the peak of population in the 70–74 age range. In total 51% of this population are over 65 years, but there are significant numbers in younger cohorts as well.

The German population is quite spread out within NSW and is one of the few birthplace groups with significant numbers in regional NSW. In total, 31% lived outside Greater Sydney, but even within Sydney there are significant numbers in the outer regions such as Nepean Blue Mountains LHD and Central Coast LHD. The largest share is in Northern Sydney LHD (16.4%), followed by South Eastern Sydney (13.2%) and Hunter New England (10.9%). Four per cent live in Southern NSW LHD, one of the largest birthplace groups for that LHD.

Like most older populations, the Germany-born population is female-skewed (53.6%) and there is a greater than average share of population in the cancer screening cohorts. In total, 22.5% of the German-born population falls into the breast screening cohort (compared to 14.3% of total population across all birthplaces), 43% in bowel screening (compared to 27.9% of total population across all birthplaces) and 37.1% in cervical screening (compared to 31.7% of total population across all birthplaces).

The breast and bowel screening percentages are high due to the large share of the population aged in the early 70s. It's expected in five years these cancer screening cohorts will decline as the population ages out of eligibility for screening.

Remarkably, 59% of the population born in Germany spoke English at home. Of the remainder, predominantly speaking German, just 0.8% had poor English proficiency — a lower rate than the Australian-born population.

German migration continues, albeit slowly. It's expected this population group will see a small decline as the older population ages and dies. There are younger cohorts of the Germany-born population, as well as continuing migration, meaning there will be a German-born population for many years to come.



Iran

The 2021 Census recorded 27,515 people born in Iran and residing in NSW, up from 23,048 in 2016 (19% increase). Iran has had long-term migration to Australia, significantly over the last 20 years, in which the population almost tripled. While 18% of the Iran-born population arrived prior to 1990, 46% migrated in the past 10 years.

Western Sydney LHD has the largest share (37.7%) of the Iran-born population in NSW, followed by Northern Sydney LHD (29.7%). The rest of this population group is spread through other areas of Sydney, and 5% is in regional NSW.

At the LGA level, the north-western areas of Sydney have the bulk of the Iran-born population, with Parramatta hosting 3,525 people, followed by The Hills Shire (2,985), Blacktown (2,142), Hornsby (1,995) and Ryde (1,989), which are all neighbouring LGAs in the Western and Northern Sydney LHDs. Iran is the ninth largest overseas birthplace in Hornsby and seventh largest in The Hills Shire.

The age structure is representative of recent migration, with 54% aged 30–49. There is a smaller number of people aged over 50, however, this is increasing. There are few elderly people and very few children under 15 years old (as with many birthplace groups, these children were more likely born in Australia to Iranian parents).

The Iran-born population is slightly male-skewed (52.6% male).

This leads to slightly smaller fractions of this population group in the older cancer screening cohorts compared to the general population averages. In the bowel screening cohort, 26.2% of the Iran-born population are eligible (the general population average is 27.9%). In breast screening, 12.8% of the Iran-born population are eligible (14.3% of the general population is eligible). The cervical screening cohort is larger due to the 30–49 age peak, with 40.4% of the Iran-born population eligible.

Overall, those born in Iran had an average level of English proficiency among all birthplace groups, with 12.9% stating poor or no English proficiency, and 9.3% speaking English at home. Those speaking a language other than English mostly spoke the Farsi dialect of Persian (recorded in the Census as 'Persian').

With a recent influx of migrants from Iran to Australia, there is scope for this population to age in future, which is already happening in small numbers in the over 50s cancer screening cohorts. This is likely to increase.



Ireland

The 2021 Census recorded 27,001 people born in the Republic of Ireland and resident in NSW. This was an increase of 2,963 people since 2016 (12%). There has been a long and consistent trend of Irish migration to Australia. In recent years, 17.3% of those born in Ireland arrived in the past five years, while 36% arrived in 10 years, and 32% arrived pre-1990. It's generally the case that a large percentage of Australia's population has Irish ancestry. For NSW, 9.1% of the state's residents reported Irish ancestry, while those born in Ireland make up only 0.3% of the state's population.

Living near the coast and in the inner city of Sydney is popular for people from Ireland. The South Eastern Sydney LHD housed 31% of those from Ireland, and Sydney LHD 16%. Northern Sydney LHD was the third largest group at 15%. This population group is otherwise dispersed, including Hunter New England LHD, Illawarra LHD, and further afield. At the LGA level, the largest numbers were in Randwick, City of Sydney, Bayside and Northern Beaches.

Irish migrants are largely in the younger workforce categories, but there is also an older component, including people aged in the 60s, 70s and older. Overall, people aged 25–49 made up 55% of the Irish-born population compared to 35% of the total general population in NSW. But the population aged 55+ was similar to the general population average. There are very few under the age of 25 born in Ireland.

The Irish-born population is somewhat male-skewed (53.5% male), and this affects the cancer screening cohorts, two of which focus on females. This population group had 13.5% in the breast screening cohort and 28.6% in the bowel screening cohort, both close to the population average across all birthplaces. For cervical screening, 38.1% of Irish-born are in this category (25–74-year-old females) and this is higher than the share across all birthplace groups (31.7%).

Ninety-five per cent of those born in Ireland speak English at home, while just 0.1% had difficulty speaking English. The Irish population is expected to increase moderately through migration. The older cohorts of the population will increase with ageing in place. However, this is also a mobile population, and it is possible that younger groups may leave Australia before ageing in place, keeping this population relatively young.



Egypt

There were 21,142 people born in Egypt, counted as residents of NSW in the 2021 Census. This was a moderate increase of 1,418 people (7%) since 2016. The Egyptian population of NSW has increased steadily since 2001, by about 50%. There has been a remarkably even rate of Egyptian migration over many years. While 11.5% arrived in the five years prior to the 2021 Census, 23% arrived in the last 10 years, and 46% arrived prior to 1990.

As well as arriving over many years, the population born in Egypt is geographically dispersed, though mainly within Greater Sydney (93%). The largest share is in the South Western Sydney LHD (26%), followed by South Eastern Sydney LHD and Western Sydney LHD (both 21.7%) and Sydney LHD (10%).

At the LGA level, the largest number is in Canterbury-Bankstown (2,941), followed by Blacktown (2,037), Liverpool (1,809) and Bayside Council (1,565). Other significant numbers are in Georges River, The Hills and Sutherland Shire.

The Egyptian population of NSW is substantially older than the overall population. Although there is an age cohort (35–39) which is well represented, probably due to recent skilled migrants. The bulk of the population is aged 55+ (53%). This population group is also slightly male-skewed (52% male).

Among the cancer screening cohorts, 19.4% of people born in Egypt are eligible for breast screening (females aged 50–74), while 40.3% are eligible for bowel screening (all persons aged 50–74). These percentages are higher than the general population eligible for breast and bowel screening, 14.3% and 27.9% respectively. For cervical screening, 33.4% of the Egypt-born population are eligible or 7,068 females.

A sizeable 20.4% of those born in Egypt speak English at home as their main language. The remainder primarily speak Arabic, with a low-moderate 8.7% indicating poor self-reported English proficiency.

The Egyptian population in NSW is likely to continue to grow slowly with continued sporadic migration, but the largest effect will be continued ageing of the population aged over 50.



Brazil

There were 20,411 people born in Brazil counted as NSW residents in the 2021 Census. This was an increase of 8,097 since 2016 (or 66%), one of the largest percentage increases of any birthplace group in five years. The Brazil-born population has grown almost ten-fold in 20 years. Not surprisingly, 53.5% of those born in Brazil arrived in Australia in the five years prior to 2021, and 72.4% in the past 10 years.

The Brazil-born population is highly concentrated in two areas – primarily the higher socio-economic areas of Sydney. South Eastern Sydney LHD had 39% of the total Brazil-born population, while Northern Sydney LHD had 25%, and Sydney LHD 16%. There were small numbers elsewhere in NSW, however, 80% were recorded in these three LHDs. At the LGA level, Northern Beaches had the largest number (3,000), while Bayside Council (2,411), City of Sydney (2,271), Randwick (1,987) and Waverley (1,236) made up the remainder of more than 1,000 people per LGA.

More than most, the Brazil-born population reflecting recent migration is concentrated among young working-age adults. Seventy-seven per cent of the population were aged between 25–44, with few children, a handful over 50 years and almost no-one over 65 years. The population is 52.3% female.

Because of this age structure, it is not surprising that the two older screening cohorts (breast screening and bowel screening) make up a small proportion of the Brazil-born population. Only 4.8% were in the breast screening cohort, and 8.2% (1,665 people) in the bowel screening cohort – and almost all of these at the younger end of those age ranges. Cervical screening is another matter though, with almost the entire female population falling into the 25–74 age range, this group comprised 47.4% of the Brazil-born population, one of the largest shares of any country of birth.

The main language of Brazil is Portuguese, but 15.5% of those born in Brazil spoke English at home, and a relatively low 5.4% indicated that they had poor English proficiency in 2021.

Migration from Brazil into parts of Sydney has really taken off in the last decade. If this continues, it's likely that the population will continue to grow significantly, and while there will be ageing into the older groups, in relative terms the population will probably remain young for some time to come.



North Macedonia

The population in NSW born in North Macedonia was 17,309 at the 2021 Census, a small increase of 808 people (6.6%) since 2016. This population group has decreased more than 1,700 since 2001, so the long-term trend is downwards, albeit slowly.

North Macedonia was previously called the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) and changed name in 2018, between the 2016 and 2021 censuses. References to 2016 and prior years use numbers for the FYROM. Prior to 1991 it was part of Yugoslavia.

Most North Macedonians arrived in NSW in the 1960s and 1970s, with only 5% arriving in the past 10 years.

The age structure reflects this, with the largest five-year cohort being 70–74 years old, and 80% of the population aged over 50 (47% are over 65, but there is also a large share in their 50s).

The North Macedonian population in NSW is largely found in three LHDs — South Eastern Sydney (32.4%), South Western Sydney (24.0%) and Illawarra Shoalhaven (22.6%). There are smaller numbers in other areas including parts of regional NSW, where Southern NSW has a significant population (but only 3.5% of the total). At the LGA level, the largest number is in the City of Wollongong (2,954, the largest birthplace after Australia and the UK), followed by Bayside Council (2,915), Canterbury Bankstown (1,911) and Georges River (1,814), then Liverpool and Shellharbour.

The older age structure does contribute to a high percentage of North Macedonian population being in the cancer screening cohorts. While the male-female split is close to even (51% female, mainly due to the older age structure), 30.4% of population (5,270 females) are in the breast screening cohort, while 60.6% are in the bowel screening cohort (10,483 persons aged 50–74). This is a key group for the older screening cohorts as the bulk of population are in this age range. Cervical screening (25–74-year-old females) made up 40.2%, which is still high in population terms, but less so due to smaller populations under 50.

Eleven per cent of North Macedonians speak English at home, while 23.5%, self-reported poor English proficiency. This is one group where a targeted cancer screening awareness campaign in language for the older groups in particular geographic areas could be effective.

The small increase in North Macedonian population in 2021 was a surprise and may be due to lockdowns, with more people counted at home and not overseas on Census night. The long-term trend is a decline and very few from North Macedonia have arrived recently, so further ageing and decline in population is expected.



Syria

The 2021 Census recorded 16,746 people born in Syria and resident in NSW, an increase of 7,455 people or 80% since 2016, one of the largest increases of any birthplace group in proportion to the population. The increase of Syrian population in Australia due to the refugee intake during Syria's civil war has been well documented, and 69% of the Syria-born population arrived in the five years prior to 2021. The large increase in population seems to be due to better counting in the 2021 Census. There has long been a small Syrian community in Australia, with 15% arriving prior to 1990.

As with many recently arrived groups, the Syrian population is highly concentrated, with 60% living in the South Western Sydney LHD, and a further 19% in Western Sydney LHD. There has also been settlement outside of Sydney, with the Illawarra Shoalhaven and Hunter New England LHDs having smaller population groups. At the LGA level, Fairfield has the largest number (5,768, over one-third of the total), followed by Canterbury-Bankstown (2,960), Liverpool (1,638) and Cumberland (1,446). There are 491 people born in Syria living in Wollongong, the largest outside Sydney.

Though recently arrived groups often have a young working-age profile, this is not so much the case for Syria. As a refugee community, young adults don't make up such a large share, and the majority are families with children. The peak of population is among 35–59 years old, and there are a lot of teenagers, reflecting refugees taken in as young children. There are very few aged 0–4 who were born in Syria (most born in Australia), but 15.4% of the population are aged 10–19, which is unusually high for any birthplace group. The Syria-born population is slightly female-skewed (51.3%).

The implications for the cancer screening cohorts are: a slightly higher (16.1%) population in the breast screening group compared to the average across all birthplaces (14.3%), and a slightly higher (31.8%) percentage in the bowel screening group. Cervical screening (females aged 25–74) is also a slightly larger group than the general population average of 31.7%. The Syria-born population sits at 35.9% eligible for cervical screening, just over 6,000 females. These are unusually large percentages of population for a newly arrived community, and it is due to most coming in under the refugee stream. There may well be a need for a screening program promotion in the dominant language (mostly Arabic), as 35% of those born in Syria have self-reported poor English proficiency, one of the highest for any birthplace group.

While the peak of Syrian migration seems to have passed, further refugee and family stream migration is likely to continue, so the population will likely continue to grow, if not at the high level of the past 10 years.



Serbia/Montenegro (former Yugoslavia)

The countries of birth of Serbia and Montenegro present some challenges in the analysis. The 2021 Census recorded in NSW 9,518 people born in Serbia and 451 from Montenegro. These communities are too small to be in a top 40 list. However, a substantial proportion of those born in Serbia are recorded by the Census as 'South Eastern Europe not further defined'. These are the predominantly older Serbian community who write 'Yugoslavia' as their birthplace. While many countries made up the former Yugoslavia, evidence is that it is primarily older Serbs who write it as their country of origin, so to get a true picture of the Serbian population, it is necessary to combine the 6,292 people from this category to arrive at a total of 16,266 from Serbia/Montenegro/Yugoslavia resident in NSW. This community has declined more than 5,000 people since 2001 but increased by 741 people from 2016–2021, or about 4%. As with other ageing groups this increase may have more to do with the 2021 Census being conducted in lockdown and having more people counted at home, than any real increase in the population. Prior to 1990, 48.5% of those from Serbia and 67.7% of those recorded as 'South Eastern Europe, nfd' arrived in Australia.

Considered as a group, the Serbian/Yugoslavian population is quite skewed to the older age groups, with 73% aged 50+ and 42% aged 65+. Those who were coded to 'South Eastern Europe, nfd' are older, with 85% aged over 50 (this makes sense as they have written Yugoslavia as their birthplace and presumably identify with this country which ceased to exist in 1991). There are no people from these countries of birth under the age of 20.

The largest share from Serbia is found in the South Western Sydney LHD (41%), with smaller numbers in the South Eastern Sydney and Western Sydney LHDs. Seven per cent of this population group lives in the Illawarra Shoalhaven region. For 'South Eastern Europe, nfd', the groupings are similar, but with a lower percentage (27.8%) in South Western Sydney LHD, and a more even distribution, which is likely because it is an older population. At the LGA level, the primary LGAs for both groups are Liverpool, Fairfield, Bayside and Wollongong. For those born in 'South Eastern Europe, nfd', Blacktown and Northern Beaches feature in the top LGAs of where this population resides.

Among the cancer screening groups, there are 26% Serbian-born in the breast screening cohort and 49.4% in the bowel screening cohort. For 'South Eastern Europe, nfd' 57.9% are eligible for bowel screening. Forty-two per cent of the Serbia-born population fall into the cervical screening cohort.

Both 'Serbia' and 'South Eastern Europe' (Yugoslavia) birthplaces had a similar rate in English proficiency, with about 16% of people stating poor English proficiency. Of those born in Serbia, 13% spoke English at home, while for those born in 'South Eastern Europe' it was 28%.

The Serbian-born population is likely to continue to decline, with the 2021 Census being a bit of an aberration in showing an increase. Much of this community is elderly and the older screening age groups will continue to increase for a while before declining.



The Netherlands

The 2021 Census recorded 15,777 people born in the Netherlands in NSW, a decline of 1,123 people (-6.6%) since 2016, and about -25% since 2001. Like many European communities, the Netherlands-born population is older and arrived in Australia many years ago. Almost 70% of those born in the Netherlands in NSW arrived in Australia pre-1990. There were 1,171 people who arrived in the 2016-2021 period, showing Dutch migration has not ceased.

The age structure reflects this pattern, with 60.5% of those born in the Netherlands being over the retirement age of 65, but there are people in the younger age groups as well. The peak age cohort is 70–74 years, making up 17.9% of this population (1 in 6).

The Dutch population is spread around Sydney and regional NSW. Each LHD has at least 2% of the population born in the Netherlands, with 43% in regional NSW. At the LHD level, the largest share is in Northern Sydney (16.5%), followed by Hunter New England (11.9%), South Eastern Sydney (9.6%) and Illawarra Shoalhaven (8.7%). By LGA, only the Northern Beaches has more than 1,000 people from the Netherlands, but other significant groups are in the Central Coast, Wollongong, Lake Macquarie, Sydney, and Sutherland LGAs.

The sex ratio is even at 50% male and 50% female. The age structure means that both breast screening (22% of Netherlands-born) and bowel screening (44.9% of Netherlands-born) cohorts are relatively higher compared to the average for all birthplaces. Due to fewer people under 50, however, the cervical screening cohort is smaller than the bowel screening cohort, but close to the average across all birthplaces for this group.

While Dutch is still widely spoken, 69% of those born in the Netherlands indicated that they spoke English at home, and just 0.2% had difficulty speaking English.

Though there has been a low level of migration in recent years, it's expected the population born in the Netherlands will continue to age and decline in number in the coming decades. The proportion in the screening cohorts will also decline as the peak age group passes into the 70 and 80+ age brackets.



Croatia

The 2021 Census recorded 15,483 people born in Croatia and resident in NSW, a decline of almost 3,000 people (-16%) since 2001, but only 155 people (<1% decline) since 2016.

This is a stable and older population in long-term minor decline, with 73% arriving in Australia prior to 1990, and just 2.6% in the past 10 years. It is possible that some Croatia-born residents state 'Yugoslavia' as their birthplace, but this group has been included with Serbia, as anecdotal evidence is that it comprises most residents in this category.

The Croatia-born population is more concentrated in the Sydney region than other former Yugoslav countries. The 2021 Census showed that 29.8% of residents born in Croatia are in the South Western Sydney LHD, and 15.5% in Western Sydney LHD, 13.3% are in South Eastern Sydney LHD and 11.4% in Northern Sydney LHD. At the LGA level, Fairfield and Liverpool are the only two LGAs with more than 1,000 born in Croatia. Other significant LGAs are Blacktown, Cumberland and Wollongong.

The age distribution is older, similar to other former Yugoslav countries, and 58% of Croatians in NSW are over the age of 65, while a massive 85% are aged over 50. There is nobody aged under 20 who was born in Croatia.

The Croatia-born population is slightly female-skewed (52% female), likely as a result of an older population and greater life expectancy of females. For the cancer screening cohorts, percentages among both the older cohorts (breast and bowel) were almost double the population average across all birthplace groups. There was 27.9% of the Croatia-born population in the breast screening group, and 52.1% in the bowel screening group. The cervical screening cohort has 35.4% of the population group.

The Croatia-born population has a moderate level of English proficiency. Though 22% stated that they spoke English at home, there were 16.3% who had difficulty with English, indicating that a targeted in-language screening campaign, particularly for the older screening cohorts could be beneficial.

Expect the Croatian population of NSW to continue to age and decline slowly in the future, with minimal current or future migration expected.



Canada

The 2021 Census recorded 15,214 people born in Canada and resident in NSW. This was an increase of 1,924 people (14%) since 2016, and a 64% increase since 2001.

Canadian migration has been consistent over many years, with no strong peak in any time period. While 32% arrived in the five years prior to 2021, a further 30% had been in Australia prior to 1990.

The population born in Canada shows a similar distribution to those born in the USA, with the largest shares in the inner Sydney and northern suburbs. At the LHD level, 22.4% of Canada-born residents were in Northern Sydney, 16.7% in South Eastern Sydney and 11.8% in Sydney LHD. The Hunter New England LHD recorded a significant share of Canadian-born residents at 9.2%.

At the LGA level, only two LGAs, Northern Beaches and City of Sydney, had more than 1,000 Canadian-born residents, but Inner West, Central Coast, Randwick and Sutherland Shire also had significant numbers in a relatively dispersed population.

The age structure of Canadian-born residents shows a broad peak around the working-age groups, with some older population and lower percentages of children (but some in every age cohort). The peak of 25–64-year-olds contains 74% of the Canadian-born population, compared to 52.3% of the total general population.

The Canada-born population in NSW is female-skewed (54.8% female). Forty-six per cent of the Canada-born population fall into the cervical screening category, well above the general population average of 31.8%. The breast screening cohort comprises 16.8% of the Canada-born population, which is slightly higher than the general population at 14.3%. Bowel screening is at 32.1% of Canada-born population falling into this category, compared to the 27.9% of the total general population.

Eighty-six per cent of the Canada-born population speak English at home, with almost no one having poor English proficiency.

The Canadian population is likely to grow slowly with continued migration to Australia but not at the rates of some other population groups. With a large share of the population in the 30–50 years age range, it is expected that these people will age into the breast and bowel cancer screening cohorts over the next two decades.



Turkey (Türkiye)

Note that the nation of Turkey is now officially referred to as Türkiye, but this name change happened after the 2021 Census, so Turkey is used in this report.

The 2021 Census recorded 15,147 people born in Turkey and resident in NSW. This is an increase of 2,339 people (18%), which covers most of the growth of the past 20 years. The Turkish population has been stable for the previous decade. While 10.7% of the population arrived between 2016 and 2021, more than the previous five years, it's likely the increase seen in 2021 is due to a better population count in the Census. The majority of people born in Turkey (51%) arrived in Australia prior to 1990.

The age groups reflect this, with Turkey being one of the older communities in NSW, though not yet in the 'elderly' range. There are few children (but some in every cohort) born in Turkey and the peak of population is between 40–74 years, comprising 66% of the Turkish-born population. The age range 50–54 years is the modal five-year cohort and contains 13.6% of the Turkey-born population.

The Turkish population is concentrated geographically, with 42% in the Western Sydney LHD, then 12–15% in each of South Western Sydney LHD, South Eastern Sydney LHD and Sydney LHD. Most Turkish-born residents are in Greater Sydney, but there is a significant group in Illawarra Shoalhaven (5%). At the LGA level, Cumberland has the largest number (3,819 people), followed by Blacktown (1,494) and Liverpool (830).

The Turkish population is slightly male-skewed (51.6% male). Among the cancer screening cohorts, there is a larger percentage of Turkey-born residents in all cohorts compared to the general population percentages. This is due to the ages of people in the Turkey-born population. The breast screening cohort has 23.7% of the Turkey-born population, and bowel screening has 47.7%, which are both significantly above average as a population share. Cervical screening is also high in percentage terms at 41% of all Turkish-born. Bowel screening is the largest group, comprising 7,232 people in the 50–74 age range.

There is a relatively high percentage of people born in Turkey with poor English proficiency. While 12.3% spoke English at home, 25.5% spoke another language and self-reported poor English proficiency or no English spoken. This, coupled with relative geographic concentration and high percentages in screening cohorts, makes the Turkey-born population a good target for a specific language-based screening promotion (particularly for bowel cancer screening).

There is not a lot of migration from Turkey to Australia at present, but it is likely to continue at a low level, meaning that the population will probably be stable in number but ageing into the over 50 and soon to the over 75 cohorts.



Japan

There were 14,894 people counted in NSW at the 2021 Census who were born in Japan. This represents an increase of 886 people or 6% since 2016, but about 4,700 (46%) since 2001. While not one of the largest increases, the Japanese population has been growing steadily for some time. There has been consistent migration since the 1980s, and 21% of Japanese in 2021 had arrived in the past five years, with 35% over 10 years.

The Japanese population is heavily concentrated in the Northern Sydney LHD, which accounts for 39% of the total, followed by South Eastern Sydney LHD (19%) and Sydney LHD (15%). It is also a significant group in the Northern NSW LHD, which contains 4% of the population, the only significant group outside Sydney. There is a large Japanese population on the Gold Coast in Queensland, so this could be a spill-over of that group across the border.

At the LGA level, the City of Sydney has the largest number born in Japan (1,558 people), followed by Willoughby (1,370), Northern Beaches (908), North Sydney (886) and Ku-ring-gai (839). Japan is the sixth largest birthplace outside Australia in Willoughby Council.

The age structure of the Japan-born population could best be described as 'middle aged'. There are substantial numbers of working-age residents from Japan, with a peak from age 30 through to 59 (64% of population in this range). Ages 45–49 is the largest five-year cohort, containing 13.2% of the population.

The Japanese population is female-skewed (68.3%) placing it behind Thailand among the major birthplace groups in Australia.

This, coupled with the age structure, means that 8,707 women (aged 25–74 years) or 58.5% of the Japan-born population are in the cervical screening cohort, compared to 31.7% of the general population. The breast screening group of 50–74 age females is also higher than average at 20% of total Japan-born population. While the bowel screening group, for people aged 50–74 years has 28.8% of the Japan-born population.

The Japanese population has a mid-range level of English proficiency. While a significant 21.5% of people born in Japan stated they speak English at home as their primary language, 11.6% stated poor English proficiency.

The Japanese population is likely to grow slowly, remaining concentrated in a few geographic areas, particularly Northern Sydney LHD. The breast and bowel screening cohorts will grow strongly than the total general population due to ageing.



Afghanistan

The 2021 Census recorded 14,691 people born in Afghanistan and resident in NSW, an increase of 1,591 people (12%) since 2016. The population has approximately tripled since 2001. Since 2016, 17.5% of the Afghan population arrived in Australia, and 41% since 2011. Only 7% were pre-1990 arrivals.

The Afghan population is one of the most geographically concentrated of any birthplace group, with 71.5% in the Western Sydney LHD. South Western Sydney LHD has 13.7%, and there are only a handful elsewhere, including Northern Sydney and Nepean Blue Mountains LHDs. Ninety-five per cent live in Greater Sydney. At the LGA level, almost half (6,206) live in the Cumberland LGA, followed by Blacktown (2,818) and Parramatta (928). Some regional LGAs have taken in refugees from Afghanistan, though these are small in relation to the total population. These include Coffs Harbour, Wagga Wagga and Griffith.

The Afghanistan-born population is relatively young, with a peak between the ages of 20–49 (67% of Afghan-born residents are aged 20–49, whereas 40.4% of the general population is aged 20–49). The five-year cohort peak is the 35–39 years old bracket. However, because the Afghan-born population has been in Australia for many years, there are residents ageing into the 50+ group, particularly ages 50–54.

The Afghan population is substantially male-skewed (56.2% male). The breast screening cohort comprises 10.5% of the Afghan population, and bowel screening 22%. Although this population group is male-skewed, 34.7% of the population were in the cervical screening cohort, higher than the general population percentage at 31.7%. This is because the peak of the Afghan-born population is aged in the 30s and 40s.

The Afghan population has one of the highest rates of poor English proficiency. In 2021 in NSW, 27.1% of those born in Afghanistan reported that they had difficulty speaking English or no English proficiency at all. This is a good example of a geographically concentrated population with poor English proficiency that could benefit from an in-language (mostly Dari or Hazaraghi) cancer screening promotion.

The Afghan population is likely to grow moderately, though the current peak of migration has passed, so there will be increases in the older groups as the population ages in place.



Singapore

The 2021 Census recorded 14,665 NSW residents who were born in Singapore, up by 1,935 people since 2016 (15%), and almost doubling since 2006. In the past 10 years, 31% of migrants from Singapore arrived in Australia, but migration has been steady for decades, with many people arriving in the 1980s and 1990s.

Northern Sydney LHD has the largest share of the Singapore-born population (30.2%), followed by South Eastern Sydney LHD (18%), Western Sydney LHD (17.5%), and Sydney LHD (14.7%). Ninety per cent of the Singapore-born population live in Greater Sydney.

At the LGA level, only the City of Sydney has more than 1,000 persons who were born in Singapore; other significant groups are in Parramatta and Ku-ring-gai councils.

The age structure of the Singapore-born population is similar to age structure of the general population in NSW. There are few aged 0–4, but large percentages of school-age children, students, young working adults aged 20–24, parents aged in the 40s, and empty nesters aged in their 60s. There are few people aged over 85.

The Singapore-born population is slightly female-skewed (53.8% female). The proportions of population in the cancer screening cohorts reflect the similar age structure of the total general population. Of the Singapore-born population, 17.3% fit in the breast screening cohort (50–74 females), 30.1% in the bowel screening cohort (50–74-year-old persons) and 37% in the cervical screening cohort (25–74-year-old females).

Fifty-eight per cent of people born in Singapore spoke English as their primary language at home, and 1.3% recorded difficulty speaking English.

The Singapore-born population is likely to increase at a moderate rate. If the migration age structure continues, there are likely to be increases in all age groups, which will flow into the cancer screening cohorts. However future change in percentages of people falling into the cancer screening cohorts will probably incorporate moderate increases due to ageing in place.



Taiwan

The 2021 Census recorded 14,544 people born in Taiwan and resident in NSW, an increase of 1,051 people or 7.8% since 2016.

Though Australia does not recognise it as a separate nation to China, Taiwan (like the Special Administrative Regions of Hong Kong and Macau) is counted separately as a birthplace in the Census. The characteristics of the Taiwan-born population are different to the mainland China-born population and are considered separately in this report.

The Taiwanese population has migrated to Australia over many years, primarily commencing in the 1980s and has been consistent since then. In the five years prior to 2021, 25% of the population arrived in Australia and 41% in the past 10 years.

The Taiwanese population is mainly in Greater Sydney (91%), with 31% in Northern Sydney LHD, 19% in Western Sydney LHD, 17% in Sydney LHD and 16% in South Eastern Sydney LHD. At the LGA level, only two LGAs, Parramatta (1,357) and City of Sydney (1,241), had more than 1,000 people who were born in Taiwan. Other significant populations are in Ku-ring-gai, Willoughby and Ryde LGAs.

The Taiwanese population in NSW peaks at ages 30–34 years, and 67% of this population is aged between 25–49. There is a minor peak of people aged 65–69, which represents a wave of migration from the 1980s. The Taiwanese population is strongly skewed to females (57.4%).

Among the cancer screening groups, the bowel screening cohort (21.7% of Taiwanese population) is smaller than the general population average. Breast screening comprises 14.2% of the Taiwanese population, which is close to the general population average of 14.3% and is due to the female-dominated population. The cervical screening cohort comprises 51.6% of the Taiwan-born population, much higher than the general population rate of 31.7%.

The 2021 Census showed that people in NSW who were born in Taiwan spoke primarily Mandarin or Min Nan at home, with 8% speaking English at home, and a high rate (25.2%) having poor or no self-reported English proficiency.

The Taiwanese population is likely to grow, and the current wave of migration will age into the 50+ groups over the next decade, significantly increasing the cancer screening cohorts.



There were 14,073 people born in Chile and resident in NSW at the 2021 Census, an increase of 1,051 people (8%) since the 2016 Census. Much of the Chilean population arrived in the 1970s and 1980s (66% pre-1990) but there has been a recent minor influx from this country with 12.9% arriving in Australia between 2016–2021.

The Chile-born population includes 31% in South Western Sydney LHD, and significant numbers in the South Eastern Sydney LHD (20%) and Western Sydney LHD (12%). About 13% live outside of Greater Sydney, with the most significant population in Illawarra Shoalhaven LHD. At the LGA level, only two LGAs have more than 1,000 people born in Chile – Fairfield (1,411) and Liverpool (1,237). Smaller numbers live in Bayside, Campbelltown, Blacktown, Sydney, Canterbury-Bankstown and Wollongong.

The Chilean population shows a broad age structure tending towards middle aged and older, which represents the migration peak in the 1970s and 1980s. More recent migrants are more likely to be aged in the 30s. There are very few children from Chile living in NSW. Overall, 50–79 years is the broad peak and comprises 55% of all Chile-born. There is a slight (51.9%) female skew in the population.

The cancer screening cohorts are all high, compared to the total general population in NSW. In total, 25% falls into the breast screening cohort, 46.9% into the bowel screening cohort, and 42.8% into the cervical screening cohort.

NSW residents born in Chile have a moderate-high level of English proficiency compared to other birthplace groups. In this population, 19.6% spoke English at home. Most of the remainder are Spanish speakers, with 11.6% indicating poor or no English proficiency.

The Chile-born population is expected to be stable and age in place, however, a recent increase in migration has seen younger age groups increase again, which may continue.



Poland

The 2021 Census recorded 13,830 people born in Poland and resident in NSW, an increase of 379 people since 2016 (2.8%). However, since 2001 the population has decreased more than 3,000 people. Poland, along with several European countries, represents an older migration wave following the Second World War, with 58% arriving in Australia before 1990. However, 12% arrived in the last 10 years, showing low migration from Poland continues.

The Polish population is primarily in Greater Sydney, and the Hunter and Illawarra regions of NSW. In the latter regions, the population is geographically spread. The largest share is 19% in South Eastern Sydney LHD, 17% in Northern Sydney LHD, 16% in South Western Sydney LHD and 15% in Western Sydney LHD. At the LGA level, there are no LGAs with more than 1,000 people born in Poland. The largest number is 870 in Blacktown LGA, followed by City of Sydney, Liverpool and Northern Beaches.

There are three-peaks in the age structure of the Polish population living in NSW. The 6.6% of the population aged 85+ probably represents the migration after the Second World War. In the 1960s and 1970s many people arrived in Australia from Poland and is represented by an age peak of 60–74 years, which makes up 33.5% of the Poland-born population. The third peak is 35–49 years old (28.2%), who represent migration since the 1980s.

The Polish-born population is female-skewed (57.3%). This, coupled with the age structure, leads to a relatively high rate of population in all the cancer screening cohorts. There is 24.2% of the Polish-born population in the breast screening cohort, 46% in the cervical screening cohort, and 44.2% in the bowel screening cohort.

Only 6.8% of the Poland-born had difficulty speaking English (self-reported) in 2021. This is among the lower rates for a non-English speaking country. And 29.5% of the population indicated that they spoke English at home.

The Polish population could be expected to decline slowly in future, due to the elderly nature of the population. This is common for many European birthplace groups.



Cambodia

The 2021 Census recorded 13,823 people born in Cambodia resident in NSW, an increase of 1,384 people (11%) since 2016, and close to a 50% increase since 2001. Cambodian migration to Australia has been steady since commencing in the 1970s, and while 11% of the population arrived in the five years prior to 2021, 43% arrived prior to 1990.

The Cambodian-born population of NSW is among the most geographically concentrated of any birthplace group, with 77% being found in the South Western Sydney LHD — the next highest rate is 6% in Western Sydney LHD. There are few Cambodia-born residents in regional NSW. At the LGA level, Fairfield (7,507) and Liverpool (2,126) combined make up 70% of the Cambodian population. The geographic distribution of the Cambodian population in NSW is similar to the Vietnamese population.

The Cambodian-born population has a broad age-group peak, with 30–74 years of age comprising 81% of the population, which includes a mix of age groups from different eras of migration. There are not many children under 10 years old, but a few in the 10–19 age range. There are some elderly over the age of 80.

The Cambodian population in NSW is female-skewed (56.2%).

All cancer screening cohorts have a greater percentage share of the Cambodian-born population than the total general population. There were 23.7% of Cambodia-born population in the breast screening cohort, 44.6% in the bowel screening cohort, and 48.2% in the cervical screening cohort.

The Cambodia-born population has the highest rate of any country of birth in NSW with poor English proficiency. In 2021, 41.7% of Cambodian-born residents spoke a language other than English and stated that they had poor English or no English proficiency at all. This is slightly higher than the Vietnamese community, and, coupled with geographic concentration and high percentages in all the screening cohorts makes this community a good candidate for any screening campaign in-language (primarily Khmer).

While there isn't a huge influx of migrants from Cambodia at the moment, a steady stream of family migration will increase this population slowly, and ageing of the existing population will increase the number of people in the cancer screening cohorts.



Malta

The 2021 Census recorded 13,491 people born in Malta in the NSW population, a decline of 990 people (-6.8%) since 2016. The population born in Malta has fallen by almost 5,000 since 2001 and is in steady decline. There has been almost no migration from Malta in the past 30 years and 88% arrived pre-1990 (predominantly in the 1950s and 1960s).

This is reflected in the age structure of the Maltese population in NSW, which is among the oldest groups after Italy. The peak age group for the Malta-born population is 70–74, with 78% aged over 65. There is almost no-one under 25 in the population.

The Maltese population is concentrated in Western Sydney LHD (29%), followed by South Western Sydney LHD (19.4%) and Nepean Blue Mountains LHD (13.6%). Most of the population is in the area which could be termed 'Greater Western Sydney'. There are smaller groups outside Sydney, particularly in Illawarra Shoalhaven and Central Coast LHDs. At the LGA level, three LGAs have over 1,000 people born in Malta – Blacktown (2,029), Penrith (1,239) and Cumberland (1,159). Fairfield and Central Coast also have significant numbers.

The male-female split for this population is 50-50. For cancer screening cohorts, the breast and bowel screening cohorts are considerably higher as a percentage of the Malta-born population than the general population average. The breast screening cohort comprises 27.9% of Malta-born population, while the bowel screening cohort is at 55.9%, or just over 7,500 people. Because of the older age skew of the population, the cervical screening cohort is not so high, comprising 29.9% of the population or about 4,000 females (most of whom are also in the breast screening cohort).

Malta-born residents have a high rate of English speaking and a low rate of poor English proficiency – 48.8% stated they spoke English at home, while 4.8% recorded they had poor or no English proficiency.

With low migration from Malta, this population will continue to decline and age in place. It is reasonable to expect declines in the screening age cohorts, as the population ages past 75 years.



The 2021 Census counted 13,274 people born in France and resident in NSW, an increase of 1,734 people (15%) since 2016 and almost doubling since 2001. Though not a large birthplace group, the French population of NSW has had consistent in-migration over many years, with a significant increase since 2016. In the five years prior to 2021, 25% of the population arrived in Australia and 46% in the last 10 years.

The LHD with the largest share of the French population is South Eastern Sydney (31.7%), followed by Northern Sydney (22.9%) and Sydney LHD (14.1%). About 20% of residents born in France live in regional NSW, with Northern NSW LHD having the largest share. At the LGA level, only three LGAs have more than 1,000 people born in France – City of Sydney (1,626), Randwick (1,400) and Northern Beaches (1,374). In regional NSW, the largest number of French-born residents is in Byron Shire (280).

The age structure of this population is mostly representative of recent, skilled migration, with a large peak of working-age population – 65% aged between 25–54 years. There is a smaller peak of ages 70–74, which is probably representing a small amount of post-Second World War migration. There are moderate numbers of children in the population who were born in France. The French population is slightly skewed towards males (51.4%).

Among the cancer screening cohorts, the two older-age screening programs (breast and bowel) have a lower proportion of the French population eligible, due to the young peak age of this population. For breast screening, 11.6% of the population are 50–74-year-old females, while for bowel screening, 24.3% of French-born are in the 50–74-year-old persons cohort. For cervical screening the percentage is higher, with 39.7% of the France-born population falling into this category, 25–74-year-old females.

Only 1.3% of residents born in France have poor English proficiency (self-reported) in 2021, while 32% indicated that they spoke English at home.

French migration to Australia has been small but steady and is mainly in the skilled and employment migration categories. This is likely to continue, but the population has significant turnover, so the existing population may not age as fast as some other groups.



Colombia

The 2021 Census recorded 11,707 people born in Colombia and resident in NSW, an increase of 4,965 (74%) since 2016. Colombia is not a large country of birth in NSW, but one of the most rapidly growing from a small population base. The population has increased from about 2,400 in 2001, and 64% arrived in Australia in the past 10 years. It is now the third-largest South American country of birth in NSW, behind Brazil and Chile.

The age structure reflects recent migration, with very few children or elderly, and most of the population is in the young, working-age group. Seventy-one per cent are aged between 25–44. The population is female-skewed (53.5% female).

Colombians mainly live in central and northern parts of Sydney. The largest population is in the South Eastern Sydney LHD (36.2%), followed by Sydney LHD (25.3%) and Northern Sydney (14.8%). In total, 94% live in Greater Sydney. At the LGA level, two LGAs dominate the population, with 1,988 people counted in the City of Sydney, and 1,937 in Bayside Council. In Bayside, Colombia is the 14th-largest birthplace group, while it is 44th across NSW.

With the young age structure, populations in the older-age cancer screening cohorts (breast and bowel) are small, with 7.3% of the Colombian population in NSW falling into the breast screening cohort and 12.4% in the bowel screening cohort. For cervical screening, however, because it includes a female population aged 25–74, 47.7% of the Colombia-born are in this cohort, or 5,588 females.

The population born in Colombia has a low to moderate rate of poor English proficiency. In 2021, 11.8% said that they spoke English at home, while a further 10.3% spoke another language (primarily Spanish) and spoke English poorly or not at all.

The current large increase in population migrating from Colombia may continue. If it does, the numbers in all cancer screening cohorts will increase but it will be many years before the population is old enough to have large increases in the older 50+ age cohorts. Because this population group is recent to Australia, it's hard to know whether the migration trend will continue.



Samoa

Samoa is the 45th largest country of birth after the United Kingdom in NSW, and the smallest group profiled in this report with more than 10,000 people. In 2021 there were 10,147 people born in Samoa residing in NSW, an increase of 1,112 people since 2016 (12%), and approximately a 50% increase since 2001.

Samoa is the second Pacific-island nation in this list, after Fiji. Most Samoan-born people in NSW arrived after 1990, with 15.3% arriving between 2016–2021, and 30.7% arriving in the past 10 years. It has been a steady migration over the past 30 years. The age structure reflects long-term migration, and those born in Samoa have a peak age between 45–69 years (50% of population). There are not many elderly people, nor many children born in Samoa who are residing in NSW (most younger children with Samoan parents would've been born in Australia). There is a significant minority of teenagers born in Samoa living in NSW.

The population born in Samoa lives primarily in South Western Sydney LHD (49%) and Western Sydney LHD (28%). At the LGA level, Blacktown (2,305 people), Campbelltown (1,865) and Liverpool (1,348) are the most significant groups, followed by Fairfield and Penrith.

The Samoan population is close to an even mix of male and female, and due to the age structure of the population, the percentage of population in each cancer screening cohort is higher than the general population average. The breast screening cohort comprises 22.6% of Samoan-born, while bowel screening is 49.4%. For cervical screening, 40.5% of the Samoa-born population (females aged 25–74) are eligible.

Fifteen per cent of the Samoa-born population speak English at home, while a moderate level of 11.8% of the population have poor or no self-reported English proficiency.

There is a small but well-established Pacific Islander community in NSW, and a lot more people speak the Samoan language than were born in Samoa. The population born in Samoa is likely to increase slowly with more migration and ageing will be a strong trend in future.

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