

Demographic characteristics

At the 2016 Census, there were 16,627 Iran-born persons in Victoria (28.6% of Australia’s total), ranked 24th among the overseas-born communities in Victoria. The Iran-born increased by 123.3% (9,181) from 7,446 persons in 2011. They are distributed throughout Metropolitan Melbourne, with concentrations in the LGAs of: Manningham (11.8%), Whittlesea (10.0%), Whitehorse (5.9%), Greater Dandenong (5.5%) and Casey (5.3%).

The Iran-born reflected a young to balanced age profile: 23.7% were aged 25 years and below; 54.0% were aged 26-44 years; 16.9% were aged 45-64 years; and 4.8% were aged 65 years and over. The median age was 34 years, compared to 37 years for total Victoria. The gender ratio was 121 males to 100 females, compared to 96 males to 100 females for total Victoria.

There were 17,506 persons identified with Iranian ancestry. Most of them were born in Iran (76.3%) and Australia (15.4%). A small proportion (13.6%) of the Iran-born in Victoria had arrived in Australia prior to 1996; 4.2% arrived in 1996-2000; 6.2% arrived in 2001-2005; 17.3% arrived in 2006-2010; and 56.1% arrived in 2011-2016.

Most of the Iran-born speak Persian (77.0%) and Arabic (4.8%); 5.6% speak English only. Of those who speak a language other than English, 18.3% speak English not well/not at all. The Iran-born follow Islam (35.2%), Baha’i (9.5%), Catholic (2.5%) and Christian not further defined (2.2%); 30.1% have no religion. Two-fifths of the Iran-born (39.7%) have Australian citizenship, compared to 58.3% for the total overseas-born population in Victoria.

(See p.3 on economic characteristics).

Iran-born in Victoria and Australia: 2016, 2011 and 2006 Census

Location	2016 Census		2011 Census		2006 Census		Change 2011-2016		Change 2006-2011	
	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	% change	Persons	% change
Metro Melbourne ^(a)	15,731	27.1	6,979	20.3	4,137	18.3	8,752	125.4	2,842	68.7
Rest of Victoria ^(b)	895	1.5	473	1.4	295	1.3	422	89.2	178	60.3
Total Victoria	16,627	28.6	7,446	21.6	4,433	19.7	9,181	123.3	3,013	68.0
Total Australia	58,112	100.0	34,454	100.0	22,549	100.0	23,658	68.7	11,905	52.8

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

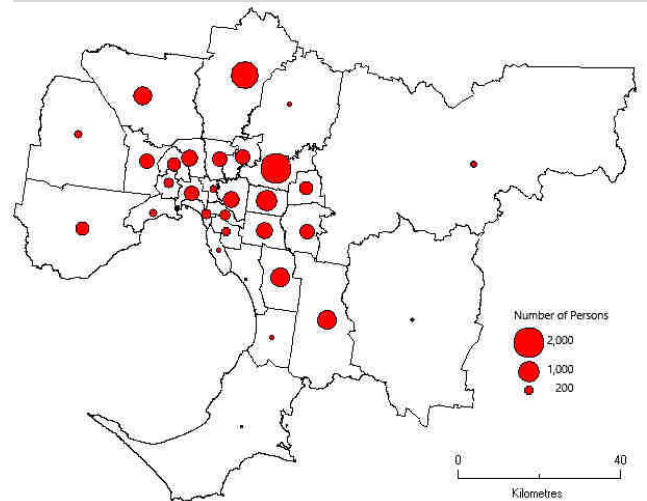
^(b) Includes “No Usual Address, Victoria” and “Offshore Areas and Migratory, Victoria”.

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

Local Government Area (LGA)	2016 Census		2011 Census		Rank in 2011
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
Manningham (C)	1,966	11.8	1,065	14.3	1
Whittlesea (C)	1,660	10.0	359	4.8	5
Whitehorse (C)	983	5.9	506	6.8	2
Gter Dandenong (C)	910	5.5	279	3.7	10
Casey (C)	885	5.3	294	3.9	9
Rest of Melbourne	9,312	56.0	4,469	60.0	-
Rest of Reg Vic ^(a)	898	5.4	478	6.4	-
Total Victoria	16,627	100.0	7,446	100.0	-

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

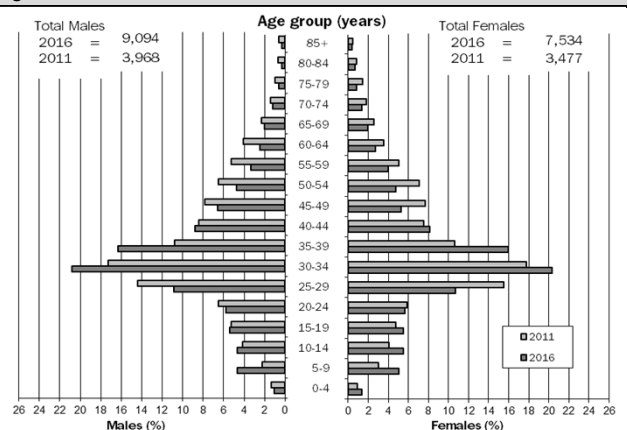
Distribution of Iran-born in Metro Melbourne, 2016



Age Distribution of Iran-born: 2016, 2011 Census

Age group (years)	2016 Census		2011 Census		2011-16 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
0-4	194	1.2	87	1.2	123.0
5-11	1,142	6.9	303	4.1	276.9
12-18	1,245	7.5	498	6.7	150.0
19-25	1,351	8.1	691	9.3	95.5
26-44	9,085	54.6	3,633	48.8	150.1
45-54	1,785	10.7	1,079	14.5	65.4
55-64	1,026	6.2	665	8.9	54.3
65-74	544	3.3	299	4.0	81.9
75+	249	1.5	178	2.4	39.9
Total Victoria	16,627	100.0	7,446	100.0	123.3
<i>Median Age</i>	<i>34</i>		<i>34</i>		
<i>Sex Ratio</i>	<i>121</i>		<i>114</i>		<i>males per 100 females</i>

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



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

Country of birth	2016		2011		2011-16 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
Iran	13,358	76.3	6,098	72.2	119.1
Afghanistan	205	1.2	152	1.8	34.9
India	183	1.0	133	1.6	37.6
Iraq	124	0.7	46	0.5	169.6
England	107	0.6	75	0.9	42.7
Australia	2,691	15.4	1,450	17.2	85.6
Other ^(a)	819	4.7	488	5.8	67.8
Total responses^(b)	17,506	100.0	8,442	100.0	107.4

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

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

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

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

Language other than English	2016		2011		2011-16 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
Persian	12,806	77.0	5,813	78.1	120.3
Arabic	800	4.8	255	3.4	213.7
Kurdish	600	3.6	156	2.1	284.6
Dari	538	3.2	117	1.6	359.8
Assyrian	233	1.4	266	3.6	-12.4
Other languages ^(a)	592	3.6	196	2.6	202.0
English only	937	5.6	586	7.9	59.9
Not stated	113	0.7	57	0.8	98.2
Total Victoria	16,627	100.0	7,446	100.0	123.3

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

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

Religious affiliation ^(a)	2016		2011		2011-16 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
Islam	5,853	35.2	3,243	43.6	80.5
Baha'i	1,583	9.5	1,362	18.3	16.2
Catholic	422	2.5	265	3.6	59.2
Christian, nfd	359	2.2	64	0.9	460.9
Baptist	315	1.9	39	0.5	707.7
Other religions	1,240	7.5	534	7.2	132.2
No religion ^(b)	5,000	30.1	1,404	18.9	256.1
Not stated	1,837	11.0	535	7.2	243.4
Total Victoria	16,627	100.0	7,446	100.0	123.3

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

^(b) No Religion, so described.

Year of Arrival of Iran-born: 2016

Year of arrival ^(a)	Iran-born		Total OSB, Vic ^(c)	
	Persons	%	Persons	%
Before 1996	2,264	13.6	716,865	42.7
1996 - 2000	696	4.2	104,975	6.2
2001 - 2005	1,036	6.2	149,043	8.9
2006 - 2010	2,878	17.3	269,729	16.1
2011 - 2016 ^(b)	9,335	56.1	381,130	22.7
Not stated	417	2.5	58,517	3.5
Total Victoria	16,627	100.0	1,680,256	100.0

^(a) Records the year of arrival in Australia for people born overseas

who intend staying in Australia for at least one year.

^(b) Arrivals up to 9 Aug 2016.

^(c) OSB stands for Overseas-born.

Proficiency in English of Iran-born: 2016, 2011

Proficiency in English	2016		2011		2011-16 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
Speaks English only	937	5.6	586	7.9	59.9
<i>Speaks other languages and speaks English</i>					
Very well	6,604	39.7	3,123	41.9	111.5
Well	5,875	35.3	2,483	33.3	136.6
Not well	2,705	16.3	974	13.1	177.7
Not at all	340	2.0	186	2.5	82.8
Not stated ^(a)	172	1.0	101	1.4	70.3
Total Victoria	16,627	100.0	7,446	100.0	123.3

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

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

Age group (years)	2016		2011		2011-16 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
0-4	21	0.3	3	0.1	600.0
5-11	171	2.6	86	2.1	98.8
12-18	360	5.5	265	6.4	35.8
19-25	404	6.1	325	7.8	24.3
26-44	3,041	46.1	1,551	37.3	96.1
45-64	1,927	29.2	1,502	36.1	28.3
65-74	460	7.0	278	6.7	65.5
75+	216	3.3	150	3.6	44.0
Total	6,598	100.0	4,162	100.0	58.5

% of Iran-born with Australian citizenship, 2016: 39.7%

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

Economic characteristics

The education levels of the Iran-born are higher than for total Victoria: 19.2% have a postgraduate degree and 21.0% have a bachelor degree, compared to 5.4% and 16.5% for total Victoria. Less of the Iran-born have a certificate (7.5%) and school education only (33.4%) compared to Victoria (14.4% and 38.7%).

The labour force participation rate of the Iran-born at 59.2% is similar to total Victoria at 60.5%. Their unemployment rate at 20.7% is much higher than total Victoria at 6.6%.

The occupational patterns of the Iran-born are different from those for total Victoria. More of them work as professionals (37.4%) and technicians and trades workers (17.1%), compared to Victoria (23.3% and 13.1%). Less of them work as managers (9.3%), clerical and administrative workers (7.1%) and sales workers (6.1%), compared to Victoria (13.5%, 13.3% and 9.7%).

The industry of employment patterns for the Iran-born are also fairly different from those for total Victoria. More of them are employed in construction (11.2%), professional, scientific, technical and administration (14.4%) and healthcare and social assistance (15.9%) than Victoria (8.3%, 11.4% and 12.5%). Less of them are employed in wholesale and retail trade (10.3%), accommodation and food services (4.6%) and public administration and safety (2.5%) than Victoria (13.4%, 6.6% and 5.3%).

The weekly personal income distribution pattern for the Iran-born is lower than total Victoria. More of them receive nil income (14.7%) and \$1-\$399 (28.4%), compared to 9.7% and 20.1% for Victoria. Less of them receive \$400-\$1,249 (33.1%) and \$1,250 and over (18.6%) than Victoria (39.8% and 21.1%).

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

Highest level of educational attainment ^(a)	Iran-born						Total Victoria					
	2016		2011		Change 2011-2016		2016		2011		Change 2011-2016	
	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	% change	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	% change
Postgraduate Degree	2,835	19.2	1,317	19.2	1,518	115.3	260,039	5.4	170,382	3.9	89,657	52.6
Grad Dip & Grad Cert	197	1.3	105	1.5	92	87.6	119,226	2.5	95,352	2.2	23,874	25.0
Bachelor Degree	3,106	21.0	1,723	25.1	1,383	80.3	798,270	16.5	641,219	14.7	157,051	24.5
Advanced Dip & Diploma	1,301	8.8	587	8.6	714	121.6	447,023	9.2	364,758	8.4	82,265	22.6
Certificate	1,112	7.5	411	6.0	701	170.6	698,036	14.4	614,689	14.1	83,347	13.6
School Education only ^(b)	4,937	33.4	2,050	29.9	2,887	140.8	1,877,183	38.7	1,876,620	43.1	563	0.0
No Educ Attainment ^(c)	382	2.6	121	1.8	261	215.7	48,920	1.0	41,809	1.0	7,111	17.0
Not stated etc ^(d)	914	6.2	541	7.9	373	68.9	597,010	12.3	550,419	12.6	46,591	8.5
Victoria	14,784	100.0	6,855	100.0	7,929	115.7	4,845,710	100.0	4,355,243	100.0	490,467	11.3

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

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

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

^(d)Includes "Inadequately described".

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

Labour force participation ^(a)	Iran-born						Total Victoria					
	2016		2011		Change 2011-2016		2016		2011		Change 2011-2016	
	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	% change	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	% change
<i>In the labour force</i>	8,849	53.2	4,038	54.2	4,811	119.1	2,929,590	49.4	2,675,478	50.0	254,112	9.5
Employed	7,018	42.2	3,463	46.5	3,555	102.7	2,736,125	46.2	2,530,635	47.3	205,490	8.1
Unemployed	1,831	11.0	575	7.7	1,256	218.4	193,465	3.3	144,843	2.7	48,622	33.6
<i>Not in the labour force</i>	5,827	35.0	2,741	36.8	3,086	112.6	1,610,130	27.2	1,451,593	27.1	158,537	10.9
Not stated	110	0.7	80	1.1	30	37.5	305,978	5.2	228,176	4.3	77,802	34.1
Not applicable ^(b)	1,844	11.1	590	7.9	1,254	212.5	1,080,919	18.2	998,793	18.7	82,126	8.2
Victoria	16,627	100.0	7,446	100.0	9,181	123.3	5,926,624	100.0	5,354,039	100.0	572,585	10.7
<i>Participation rate</i> ^(c)	59.9%		58.9%				60.5%		61.4%			
<i>Unemployment rate</i> ^(d)	20.7%		14.2%				6.6%		5.4%			

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

^(b)Persons aged under 15 years.

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

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

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

Occupation ^(a)	Iran-born						Total Victoria					
	2016		2011		Change 2011-2016		2016		2011		Change 2011-2016	
	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%
Managers	654	9.3	333	9.6	321	96.4	369,921	13.5	332,931	13.2	36,990	11.1
Professionals	2,622	37.4	1,465	42.3	1,157	79.0	636,220	23.3	564,779	22.3	71,441	12.6
Technicians and trades workers	1,198	17.1	552	15.9	646	117.0	358,749	13.1	350,757	13.9	7,992	2.3
Community&personal serv. wkrs	710	10.1	280	8.1	430	153.6	289,348	10.6	234,380	9.3	54,968	23.5
Clerical & administrative workers	495	7.1	289	8.3	206	71.3	363,216	13.3	364,497	14.4	-1,281	-0.4
Sales workers	426	6.1	216	6.2	210	97.2	265,142	9.7	245,335	9.7	19,807	8.1
Machinery operators & drivers	323	4.6	103	3.0	220	213.6	159,193	5.8	154,542	6.1	4,651	3.0
Labourers	468	6.7	148	4.3	320	216.2	247,428	9.0	227,184	9.0	20,244	8.9
Not stated ^(b)	127	1.8	72	2.1	55	76.4	46,924	1.7	56,224	2.2	-9,300	-16.5
Victoria	7,018	100.0	3,463	100.0	3,555	102.7	2,736,125	100.0	2,530,635	100.0	205,490	8.1

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

^(b)Includes "Inadequately described".

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

Industry of employment ^(a)	Iran-born						Total Victoria					
	2016		2011		Change 2011-2016		2016		2011		Change 2011-2016	
	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%
Agri, forestry, fishing & mining	43	0.6	26	0.8	17	65.4	70,052	2.6	66,176	2.6	3,876	5.9
Manufacturing	597	8.5	324	9.4	273	84.3	212,723	7.8	271,051	10.7	-58,328	-21.5
Electr, gas, water & waste	70	1.0	30	0.9	40	133.3	30,808	1.1	27,630	1.1	3,178	11.5
Construction	787	11.2	358	10.3	429	119.8	228,149	8.3	210,972	8.3	17,177	8.1
Wholesale & retail trade	725	10.3	395	11.4	330	83.5	367,953	13.4	387,813	15.3	-19,860	-5.1
Accommod & Food services	322	4.6	132	3.8	190	143.9	180,825	6.6	153,898	6.1	26,927	17.5
Transp, postal & warehousing	303	4.3	114	3.3	189	165.8	130,069	4.8	118,214	4.7	11,855	10.0
Information, Media & Telecomm	157	2.2	84	2.4	73	86.9	52,200	1.9	50,091	2.0	2,109	4.2
Finance & Insurance	181	2.6	120	3.5	61	50.8	106,669	3.9	104,701	4.1	1,968	1.9
Rental, Hiring & Real Estate	44	0.6	23	0.7	21	91.3	43,013	1.6	35,046	1.4	7,967	22.7
Prof, Scientific, Tech & Admin	1,010	14.4	571	16.5	439	76.9	310,711	11.4	279,422	11.0	31,289	11.2
Public Admin & Safety	174	2.5	87	2.5	87	100.0	144,321	5.3	134,949	5.3	9,372	6.9
Education & Training	744	10.6	347	10.0	397	114.4	236,276	8.6	202,317	8.0	33,959	16.8
Health Care & Soc Assistance	1,116	15.9	592	17.1	524	88.5	341,999	12.5	292,417	11.6	49,582	17.0
Arts, Recreation & Other serv	339	4.8	149	4.3	190	127.5	151,019	5.5	134,750	5.3	16,269	12.1
Inadeq Described/Not Stated	401	5.7	95	2.7	306	322.1	129,326	4.7	61,173	2.4	68,153	111.4
Victoria	7,018	100.0	3,463	100.0	3,555	102.7	2,736,125	100.0	2,530,635	100.0	205,490	8.1

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

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

Total personal income, weekly ^(a)	Iran-born						Total Victoria					
	2016		2011		Change 2011-2016		2016		2011		Change 2011-2016	
	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%
Negative income	249	1.7	96	1.4	153	159.4	27,122	0.6	26,342	0.6	780	3.0
Nil income	2,180	14.7	976	14.2	1,204	123.4	467,934	9.7	351,430	8.1	116,504	33.2
\$1-399	4,192	28.4	2,135	31.1	2,057	96.3	975,345	20.1	1,224,693	28.1	-249,348	-20.4
\$400-\$799	2,944	19.9	1,273	18.6	1,671	131.3	1,118,244	23.1	964,124	22.1	154,120	16.0
\$800-\$1,249	1,943	13.1	880	12.8	1,063	120.8	811,256	16.7	715,662	16.4	95,594	13.4
\$1,250-\$1,999	1,717	11.6	828	12.1	889	107.4	658,020	13.6	491,972	11.3	166,048	33.8
\$2,000 or more	1,041	7.0	405	5.9	636	157.0	364,675	7.5	246,379	5.7	118,296	48.0
Not stated	527	3.6	258	3.8	269	104.3	423,108	8.7	334,649	7.7	88,459	26.4
Victoria	14,784	100.0	6,855	100.0	7,929	115.7	4,845,710	100.0	4,355,243	100.0	490,467	11.3

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

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

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