

**Demographic characteristics**

At the 2016 Census, there were 18,637 Iraq-born persons in Victoria (27.7% of Australia’s total), ranked 18<sup>th</sup> among the overseas-born communities in Victoria. The Iraq-born increased by 45.7% (5,842) from 12,795 persons in 2011. Although the Iraq-born are distributed throughout Metropolitan Melbourne, they mainly live in the LGAs of Hume (57.1%), Whittlesea (12.4%), Moreland (3.9%), Casey (3.5%) and Brimbank (2.5%).

The Iraq-born reflected a balanced age profile: 24.3% were aged 25 years and below; 40.9% were aged 26-44 years; 27.9% were aged 45-64 years; and 6.9% were aged 65 years and over. The median age was 37 years, similar to total Victoria. The gender ratio was 105 males to 100 females, compared to 96 males to 100 females for total Victoria.

There were 12,571 persons identified with Iraqi ancestry. Most of them were born in Iraq (62.7%) and Australia (27.4%). A small proportion (14.8%) of the Iraq-born in Victoria had arrived in Australia prior to 1996; 14.7% arrived in 1996-2000; 15.0% arrived in 2001-2005; 21.0% arrived in 2006-2010; and 31.9% arrived in 2011-2016.

Most of the Iraq-born speak Arabic (43.8%), Chaldean (27.3%) and Assyrian (21.1%); 2.7% speak English only. Of those who speak a language other than English, 31.4% speak English not well/not at all. The Iraq-born are mainly Catholic (51.8%), Islam (27.9%), Assyrian Apostolic (6.5%) and Christian not further defined (4.4%). Almost two-thirds (62.8%) of the Iraq-born have Australian citizenship, compared to 58.3% for the total overseas-born population in Victoria.

(See p.3 on economic characteristics).

**Iraq-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 <sup>(a)</sup>	17,686	26.3	12,037	25.0	7,972	24.5	5,649	46.9	4,065	51.0
Rest of Victoria <sup>(b)</sup>	952	1.4	755	1.6	645	2.0	197	26.1	110	17.1
<b>Total Victoria</b>	<b>18,637</b>	<b>27.7</b>	<b>12,795</b>	<b>26.6</b>	<b>8,613</b>	<b>26.5</b>	<b>5,842</b>	<b>45.7</b>	<b>4,182</b>	<b>48.6</b>
<b>Total Australia</b>	<b>67,352</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>48,169</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>32,520</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>19,183</b>	<b>39.8</b>	<b>15,649</b>	<b>48.1</b>

<sup>(a)</sup> Metro Melbourne is equivalent to ABS's Greater Capital Statistical Area.

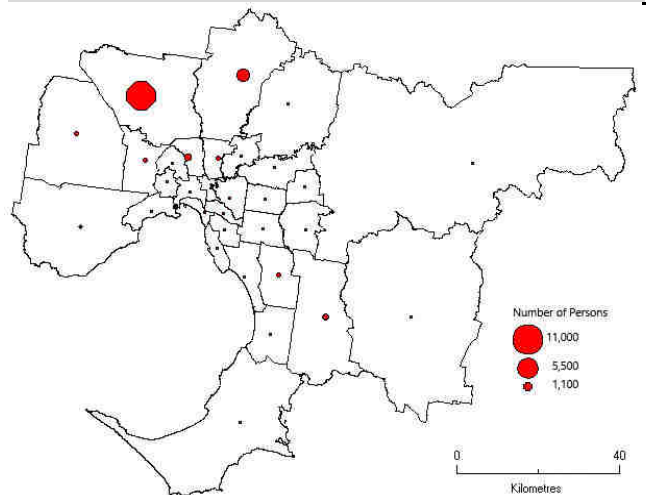
<sup>(b)</sup> Includes "No Usual Address, Victoria" and "Offshore Areas and Migratory, Victoria".

**Distribution of Iraq-born, Top 5 LGAs: 2016 Census**

Local Government Area (LGA)	2016 Census		2011 Census		Rank in 2011
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
Hume (C)	10,637	57.1	7,194	56.2	1
Whittlesea (C)	2,320	12.4	1,429	11.2	2
Moreland (C)	728	3.9	755	5.9	3
Casey (C)	651	3.5	361	2.8	6
Brimbank (C)	475	2.5	243	1.9	8
Rest of Melbourne	2,819	15.1	2,069	16.2	-
Rest of Reg Vic <sup>(a)</sup>	991	5.3	745	5.8	-
<b>Total Victoria</b>	<b>18,637</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>12,795</b>	<b>100.0</b>	-

<sup>(a)</sup> Includes "Unincorporated Vic" and "No Usual Address Vic".

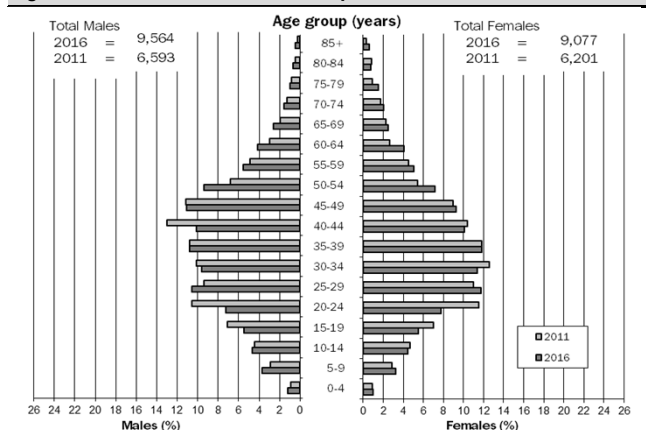
**Distribution of Iraq-born in Metro Melbourne, 2016**



**Age Distribution of Iraq-born: 2016, 2011 Census**

Age group (years)	2016 Census		2011 Census		2011-16 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
0-4	200	1.1	118	0.9	69.5
5-11	988	5.3	574	4.5	72.1
12-18	1,290	6.9	1,096	8.6	17.7
19-25	2,043	11.0	1,845	14.4	10.7
26-44	7,619	40.9	5,435	42.5	40.2
45-54	3,457	18.5	2,082	16.3	66.0
55-64	1,761	9.4	958	7.5	83.8
65-74	818	4.4	457	3.6	79.0
75+	463	2.5	239	1.9	93.7
<b>Total Victoria</b>	<b>18,637</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>12,795</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>45.7</b>
<i>Median Age</i>	<i>37</i>		<i>36</i>		
<i>Sex Ratio</i>	<i>105</i>		<i>106</i>		<i>males per 100 females</i>

**Age and Gender Distribution of Iraq-born, Victoria, 2016**



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

Country of birth	2016		2011		2011-16 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
Iraq	7,879	62.7	5,626	65.6	40.0
Iran	282	2.2	152	1.8	85.5
New Zealand	126	1.0	80	0.9	57.5
Syria	75	0.6	40	0.5	87.5
Israel	59	0.5	27	0.3	118.5
Australia	3,440	27.4	2,111	24.6	63.0
Other <sup>(a)</sup>	692	5.5	534	6.2	29.6
<b>Total responses<sup>(b)</sup></b>	<b>12,571</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>8,570</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>46.7</b>

<sup>(a)</sup> Includes all other countries, and birthplace not stated.

<sup>(b)</sup> 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 Iraq-born persons.

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

Language other than English	2016		2011		2011-16 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
Arabic	8,164	43.8	6,161	48.2	32.5
Chaldean	5,082	27.3	2,804	21.9	81.2
Assyrian	3,926	21.1	2,786	21.8	40.9
Kurdish	379	2.0	240	1.9	57.9
Persian	147	0.8	85	0.7	72.9
Other languages <sup>(a)</sup>	300	1.6	275	2.1	9.1
English only	505	2.7	339	2.6	49.0
Not stated	117	0.6	105	0.8	11.4
<b>Total Victoria</b>	<b>18,637</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>12,795</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>45.7</b>

<sup>(a)</sup> Includes "Inadequately described" and "Non-verbal, so described".

**Top 5 Religious affiliation, Iraq-born: 2016, 2011**

Religious affiliation <sup>(a)</sup>	2016		2011		2011-16 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
Catholic	9,657	51.8	6,866	53.7	40.6
Islam	5,200	27.9	3,673	28.7	41.6
Assyrian Apostolic	1,213	6.5	891	7.0	36.1
Christian, nfd	816	4.4	183	1.4	345.9
Oriental Orthodox	319	1.7	185	1.4	72.4
Other religions	575	3.1	670	5.2	-14.2
No religion <sup>(b)</sup>	393	2.1	127	1.0	209.4
Not stated	465	2.5	200	1.6	132.5
<b>Total Victoria</b>	<b>18,637</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>12,795</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>45.7</b>

<sup>(a)</sup> Religion based on 3 digit level of classification.

<sup>(b)</sup> No Religion, so described.

**Year of Arrival of Iraq-born: 2016**

Year of arrival <sup>(a)</sup>	Iraq-born		Total OSB, Vic <sup>(c)</sup>	
	Persons	%	Persons	%
Before 1996	2,762	14.8	716,865	42.7
1996 - 2000	2,745	14.7	104,975	6.2
2001 - 2005	2,795	15.0	149,043	8.9
2006 - 2010	3,921	21.0	269,729	16.1
2011 - 2016 <sup>(b)</sup>	5,938	31.9	381,130	22.7
Not stated	492	2.6	58,517	3.5
<b>Total Victoria</b>	<b>18,637</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,680,256</b>	<b>100.0</b>

<sup>(a)</sup> Records the year of arrival in Australia for people born overseas

who intend staying in Australia for at least one year.

<sup>(b)</sup> Arrivals up to 9 Aug 2016.

<sup>(c)</sup> OSB stands for Overseas-born.

**Proficiency in English of Iraq-born: 2016, 2011**

Proficiency in English	2016		2011		2011-16 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
Speaks English only	505	2.7	339	2.6	49.0
<i>Speaks other languages and speaks English</i>					
Very well	5,980	32.1	4,061	31.7	47.3
Well	6,099	32.7	4,267	33.3	42.9
Not well	4,202	22.5	2,890	22.6	45.4
Not at all	1,661	8.9	1,051	8.2	58.0
Not stated <sup>(a)</sup>	198	1.1	186	1.5	6.5
<b>Total Victoria</b>	<b>18,637</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>12,795</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>45.7</b>

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

**Iraq-born with Australian Citizenship by Age: 2016, 2011**

Age group (years)	2016		2011		2011-16 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
0-4	26	0.2	18	0.2	44.4
5-11	242	2.1	138	1.6	75.4
12-18	624	5.3	668	7.7	-6.6
19-25	1,210	10.3	1,235	14.3	-2.0
26-44	4,733	40.4	3,680	42.7	28.6
45-64	3,923	33.5	2,367	27.4	65.7
65-74	590	5.0	344	4.0	71.5
75+	351	3.0	182	2.1	92.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,701</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>8,625</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>35.7</b>

% of Iraq-born with Australian citizenship, 2016: 62.8%

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

## Economic characteristics

The education levels of the Iraq-born are lower than for total Victoria: 16.7% have a bachelor degree or higher and 7.6% have a certificate, compared to 24.4% and 14.4% for Victoria. Half (51.3%) of the Iraq-born have school education only and 8.8% have no educational attainment, compared to 38.7% and 1.0% for Victoria.

The labour force participation rate of the Iraq-born at 37.0% is lower than total Victoria at 60.5%. Their unemployment rate at 17.7% is higher than Victoria at 6.6%.

The occupational patterns of the Iraq-born are different from those for total Victoria. Less of them work as managers (6.7%), professionals (17.2%) and clerical and administrative workers (7.4%), compared to Victoria (13.5%, 23.3% and 13.3%). More of them work as technicians and trades workers (19.2%), community and personal service workers (15.0%) and labourers (14.0%) than Victoria (13.1%, 10.6%, and 9.0%).

The industry of employment patterns for the Iraq-born are fairly similar to those for total Victoria, with some exceptions. More of them are employed in construction (11.4%), transport, postal and warehousing (7.5%) and healthcare and social assistance (17.4%) compared to Victoria (8.3%, 4.8% and 12.5%).

The weekly personal income distribution pattern for the Iraq-born is lower than total Victoria. More of them receive \$1-\$399 (45.6%) than Victoria (20.1%). Less of them receive \$800-\$1,249 (9.0%) and \$1,250 or more (6.2%), compared to 16.7% and 21.1% for Victoria.

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

Highest level of educational attainment <sup>(a)</sup>	Iraq-born						Total Victoria					
	2016		2011		Change 2011-2016		2016		2011		Change 2011-2016	
	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	% change	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	% change
Postgraduate Degree	613	3.6	290	2.5	323	111.4	260,039	5.4	170,382	3.9	89,657	52.6
Grad Dip & Grad Cert	147	0.9	52	0.4	95	182.7	119,226	2.5	95,352	2.2	23,874	25.0
Bachelor Degree	2,060	12.2	1,253	10.7	807	64.4	798,270	16.5	641,219	14.7	157,051	24.5
Advanced Dip & Diploma	1,543	9.1	854	7.3	689	80.7	447,023	9.2	364,758	8.4	82,265	22.6
Certificate	1,294	7.6	662	5.6	632	95.5	698,036	14.4	614,689	14.1	83,347	13.6
School Education only <sup>(b)</sup>	8,693	51.3	6,515	55.6	2,178	33.4	1,877,183	38.7	1,876,620	43.1	563	0.0
No Educ Attainment <sup>(c)</sup>	1,498	8.8	1,033	8.8	465	45.0	48,920	1.0	41,809	1.0	7,111	17.0
Not stated etc <sup>(d)</sup>	1,094	6.5	1,062	9.1	32	3.0	597,010	12.3	550,419	12.6	46,591	8.5
<b>Victoria</b>	<b>16,942</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>11,723</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>5,219</b>	<b>44.5</b>	<b>4,845,710</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>4,355,243</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>490,467</b>	<b>11.3</b>

<sup>(a)</sup>This variable is applicable to persons aged 15 years and over.

<sup>(b)</sup>Includes persons who completed school to between Year 8 or below, and Year 12 level.

<sup>(c)</sup>Includes persons whose qualification is out of scope of this variable.

<sup>(d)</sup>Includes "Inadequately described".

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

Labour force participation <sup>(a)</sup>	Iraq-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>	6,261	33.6	4,156	32.5	2,105	50.6	2,929,590	49.4	2,675,478	50.0	254,112	9.5
Employed	5,154	27.7	3,414	26.7	1,740	51.0	2,736,125	46.2	2,530,635	47.3	205,490	8.1
Unemployed	1,107	5.9	742	5.8	365	49.2	193,465	3.3	144,843	2.7	48,622	33.6
<i>Not in the labour force</i>	10,509	56.4	7,337	57.3	3,172	43.2	1,610,130	27.2	1,451,593	27.1	158,537	10.9
Not stated	173	0.9	238	1.9	-65	-27.3	305,978	5.2	228,176	4.3	77,802	34.1
Not applicable <sup>(b)</sup>	1,695	9.1	1,073	8.4	622	58.0	1,080,919	18.2	998,793	18.7	82,126	8.2
<b>Victoria</b>	<b>18,637</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>12,795</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>5,842</b>	<b>45.7</b>	<b>5,926,624</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>5,354,039</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>572,585</b>	<b>10.7</b>
<i>Participation rate</i> <sup>(c)</sup>	37.0%		35.5%				60.5%		61.4%			
<i>Unemployment rate</i> <sup>(d)</sup>	17.7%		17.9%				6.6%		5.4%			

<sup>(a)</sup>This variable is applicable to persons 15 years and over.

<sup>(b)</sup>Persons aged under 15 years.

<sup>(c)</sup>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.

<sup>(d)</sup>The unemployment rate represents the number of unemployed persons expressed as a % of the labour force.

**Occupation, Iraq-born and Total Victoria: 2016, 2011**

Occupation <sup>(a)</sup>	Iraq-born						Total Victoria					
	2016		2011		Change 2011-2016		2016		2011		Change 2011-2016	
	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%
Managers	343	6.7	230	6.7	113	49.1	369,921	13.5	332,931	13.2	36,990	11.1
Professionals	886	17.2	548	16.1	338	61.7	636,220	23.3	564,779	22.3	71,441	12.6
Technicians and trades workers	988	19.2	673	19.7	315	46.8	358,749	13.1	350,757	13.9	7,992	2.3
Community&personal serv. wkr	774	15.0	257	7.5	517	201.2	289,348	10.6	234,380	9.3	54,968	23.5
Clerical & administrative workers	382	7.4	259	7.6	123	47.5	363,216	13.3	364,497	14.4	-1,281	-0.4
Sales workers	383	7.4	300	8.8	83	27.7	265,142	9.7	245,335	9.7	19,807	8.1
Machinery operators & drivers	510	9.9	397	11.6	113	28.5	159,193	5.8	154,542	6.1	4,651	3.0
Labourers	723	14.0	580	17.0	143	24.7	247,428	9.0	227,184	9.0	20,244	8.9
Not stated <sup>(b)</sup>	166	3.2	165	4.8	1	0.6	46,924	1.7	56,224	2.2	-9,300	-16.5
<b>Victoria</b>	<b>5,154</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>3,414</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,740</b>	<b>51.0</b>	<b>2,736,125</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2,530,635</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>205,490</b>	<b>8.1</b>

<sup>(a)</sup>This variable is applicable to employed persons aged 15 years and over.

<sup>(b)</sup>Includes "Inadequately described".

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

Industry of employment <sup>(a)</sup>	Iraq-born						Total Victoria					
	2016		2011		Change 2011-2016		2016		2011		Change 2011-2016	
	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%
Agri, forestry, fishing & mining	26	0.5	17	0.5	9	52.9	70,052	2.6	66,176	2.6	3,876	5.9
Manufacturing	448	8.7	427	12.5	21	4.9	212,723	7.8	271,051	10.7	-58,328	-21.5
Electr, gas, water & waste	31	0.6	21	0.6	10	47.6	30,808	1.1	27,630	1.1	3,178	11.5
Construction	586	11.4	329	9.6	257	78.1	228,149	8.3	210,972	8.3	17,177	8.1
Wholesale & retail trade	578	11.2	503	14.7	75	14.9	367,953	13.4	387,813	15.3	-19,860	-5.1
Accommod & Food services	272	5.3	212	6.2	60	28.3	180,825	6.6	153,898	6.1	26,927	17.5
Transp, postal & warehousing	388	7.5	279	8.2	109	39.1	130,069	4.8	118,214	4.7	11,855	10.0
Information, Media & Telecomm	33	0.6	21	0.6	12	57.1	52,200	1.9	50,091	2.0	2,109	4.2
Finance & Insurance	72	1.4	64	1.9	8	12.5	106,669	3.9	104,701	4.1	1,968	1.9
Rental, Hiring & Real Estate	35	0.7	39	1.1	-4	-10.3	43,013	1.6	35,046	1.4	7,967	22.7
Prof, Scientific, Tech & Admin	515	10.0	397	11.6	118	29.7	310,711	11.4	279,422	11.0	31,289	11.2
Public Admin & Safety	187	3.6	109	3.2	78	71.6	144,321	5.3	134,949	5.3	9,372	6.9
Education & Training	311	6.0	132	3.9	179	135.6	236,276	8.6	202,317	8.0	33,959	16.8
Health Care & Soc Assistance	895	17.4	415	12.2	480	115.7	341,999	12.5	292,417	11.6	49,582	17.0
Arts, Recreation & Other serv	337	6.5	219	6.4	118	53.9	151,019	5.5	134,750	5.3	16,269	12.1
Inadeq Described/Not Stated	435	8.4	241	7.1	194	80.5	129,326	4.7	61,173	2.4	68,153	111.4
<b>Victoria</b>	<b>5,154</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>3,414</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,740</b>	<b>51.0</b>	<b>2,736,125</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2,530,635</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>205,490</b>	<b>8.1</b>

<sup>(a)</sup>This variable is applicable to employed persons aged 15 and over.

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

Total personal income, weekly <sup>(a)</sup>	Iraq-born						Total Victoria					
	2016		2011		Change 2011-2016		2016		2011		Change 2011-2016	
	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%
Negative income	287	1.7	171	1.5	116	67.8	27,122	0.6	26,342	0.6	780	3.0
Nil income	1,855	10.9	989	8.4	866	87.6	467,934	9.7	351,430	8.1	116,504	33.2
\$1-399	7,720	45.6	6,614	56.4	1,106	16.7	975,345	20.1	1,224,693	28.1	-249,348	-20.4
\$400-\$799	3,833	22.6	2,060	17.6	1,773	86.1	1,118,244	23.1	964,124	22.1	154,120	16.0
\$800-\$1,249	1,519	9.0	722	6.2	797	110.4	811,256	16.7	715,662	16.4	95,594	13.4
\$1,250-\$1,999	658	3.9	315	2.7	343	108.9	658,020	13.6	491,972	11.3	166,048	33.8
\$2,000 or more	384	2.3	218	1.9	166	76.1	364,675	7.5	246,379	5.7	118,296	48.0
Not stated	680	4.0	644	5.5	36	5.6	423,108	8.7	334,649	7.7	88,459	26.4
<b>Victoria</b>	<b>16,942</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>11,723</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>5,219</b>	<b>44.5</b>	<b>4,845,710</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>4,355,243</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>490,467</b>	<b>11.3</b>

<sup>(a)</sup>Applicable to persons aged 15 years and over.

This fact sheet is available for free download at [www.multicultural.vic.gov.au](http://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*.