

The Sri Lanka-Born Community in Victoria – 2016 Census (ranked 7)

Demographic characteristics

At the 2016 Census, there were 55,830 Sri Lanka-born persons in Victoria (50.8% of Australia's total), ranked 7th among the overseas-born communities in Victoria. The Sri Lanka-born increased by 26.9% (11,839) from 43,991 persons in 2011. They are distributed throughout Metropolitan Melbourne, with major concentrations in the LGAs of Casey (20.2%), Monash (11.9%), Greater Dandenong (11.4%), Knox (5.7%) and Whittlesea (5.6%).

The Sri Lanka-born reflected a balanced profile: 17.0% were aged 25 years and under; 41.9% were aged 26-44; 28.3% were aged 45-64; and 12.7% were aged 65 years and over. The median age was 40 years, compared to 37 years for total Victoria. The gender ratio was 108 males to 100 females, compared to 96 males to 100 females for total Victoria.

There were 58,592 persons identified with Sri Lankan ancestry. Most (64.1%) of them were born in Sri Lanka; 30.1% were born in Australia. One-third (31.8%) of the Sri Lanka-born in Victoria had arrived in Australia prior to 1996; 7.6% arrived in 1996-2000; 10.4% arrived in 2001-2005; 23.4% arrived in 2006-2010; and 24.6% arrived in 2011-2016.

Most of the Sri Lanka-born speak Sinhalese (67.2%) and Tamil (17.8%); 24.1% speak English only. Of those who speak a language other than English, 5.1% speak English not well or not at all. Over two-fifths (44.4%) of the Sri Lanka-born are Buddhist; 23.2% are Catholic; 12.5% are Hindu; 4.4% are Anglican; 3.3% are Muslim; 3.2% have no religion. Three-fifths (59.0%) of Sri Lanka-born have Australian citizenship, compared to 58.3% for overseas-born in Victoria.

(See p.3 on economic characteristics).

Sri Lanka-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)	54,030	49.2	42,655	49.4	30,631	49.2	11,375	26.7	12,024	39.3
Rest of Victoria ^(b)	1,800	1.6	1,338	1.5	851	1.4	462	34.5	487	57.2
Total Victoria	55,830	50.8	43,991	50.9	31,480	50.6	11,839	26.9	12,511	39.7
Total Australia	109,849	100.0	86,412	100.0	62,256	100.0	23,437	27.1	24,156	38.8

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

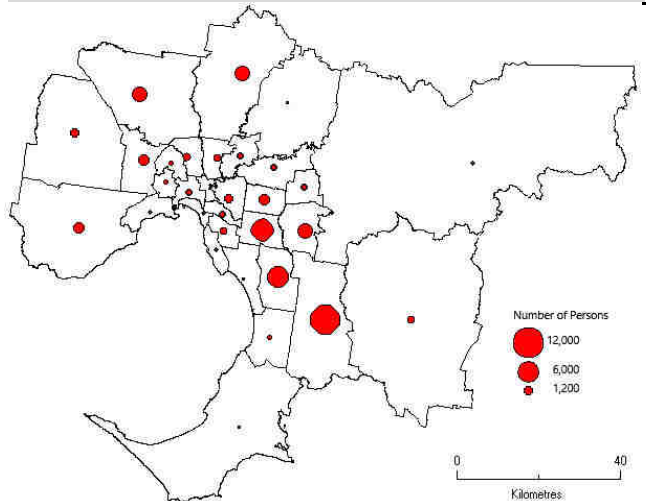
^(b) Includes "No Usual Address, Victoria" and "Offshore Areas and Migratory, Victoria".

Distribution of Sri Lanka-born, Top 5 LGAs: 2016 Census

Local Government Area (LGA)	2016 Census		2011 Census		Rank in 2011
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
Casey (C)	11,279	20.2	7,550	17.2	1
Monash (C)	6,638	11.9	5,710	13.0	3
Greater Dandenong (C)	6,364	11.4	5,782	13.1	2
Knox (C)	3,178	5.7	2,639	6.0	4
Whittlesea (C)	3,138	5.6	1,931	4.4	6
Rest of Melbourne	23,314	41.8	18,974	43.1	-
Rest of Reg Vic ^(a)	1,933	3.5	1,369	3.1	-
Total Victoria	55,830	100.0	43,991	100.0	-

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

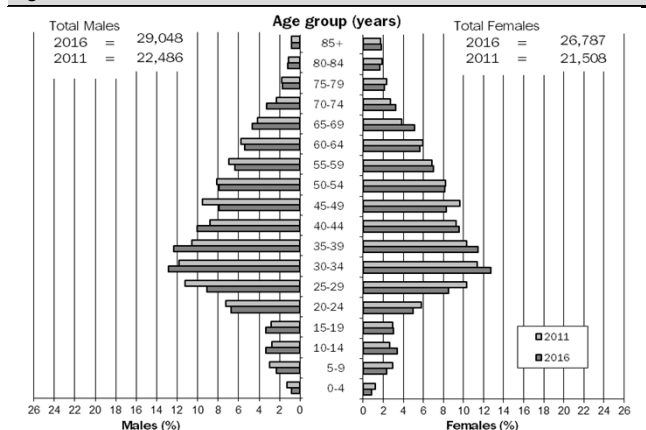
Distribution of Sri Lanka-born in Metro Melbourne, 2016



Age Distribution of Sri Lanka-born: 2016, 2011 Census

Age group (years)	2016 Census		2011 Census		2011-16 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
0-4	465	0.8	534	1.2	-12.9
5-11	2,078	3.7	1,803	4.1	15.3
12-18	2,451	4.4	1,654	3.8	48.2
19-25	4,517	8.1	4,063	9.2	11.2
26-44	23,412	41.9	17,555	39.9	33.4
45-54	8,990	16.1	7,821	17.8	14.9
55-64	6,793	12.2	5,606	12.7	21.2
65-74	4,533	8.1	2,853	6.5	58.9
75+	2,588	4.6	2,115	4.8	22.4
Total Victoria	55,830	100.0	43,991	100.0	26.9
Median Age	40		40		
Sex Ratio	108		105		males per 100 females

Age and Gender Distribution of Sri Lanka-born, Victoria, 2016



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

Country of birth	2016		2011		2011-16 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
Sri Lanka	37,573	64.1	24,744	64.3	51.8
England	619	1.1	456	1.2	35.7
Malaysia	519	0.9	326	0.8	59.2
New Zealand	244	0.4	136	0.4	79.4
UAE	236	0.4	137	0.4	72.3
Australia	17,659	30.1	11,462	29.8	54.1
Other ^(a)	1,706	2.9	1,229	3.2	38.8
Total responses^(b)	58,592	100.0	38,490	100.0	52.2

^(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 Sri Lanka-born persons.

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

Language other than English	2016		2011		2011-16 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
Sinhalese	31,256	56.0	23,569	53.6	32.6
Tamil	9,913	17.8	7,024	16.0	41.1
Sthn Asian langs	683	1.2	548	1.2	24.6
Malay	42	0.1	32	0.1	31.3
Mandarin	29	0.1	8	0.0	262.5
Other languages ^(a)	205	0.4	202	0.5	1.5
English only	13,431	24.1	12,318	28.0	9.0
Not stated	267	0.5	290	0.7	-7.9
Total Victoria	55,830	100.0	43,991	100.0	26.9

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

Top 5 Religious affiliation, Sri Lanka-born: 2016, 2011

Religious affiliation ^(a)	2016		2011		2011-16 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
Buddhism	24,775	44.4	18,296	41.6	35.4
Catholic	12,958	23.2	11,852	26.9	9.3
Hinduism	6,974	12.5	4,996	11.4	39.6
Anglican	2,476	4.4	2,602	5.9	-4.8
Islam	1,863	3.3	1,323	3.0	40.8
Other religions	4,099	7.3	3,656	8.3	12.1
No religion ^(b)	1,770	3.2	880	2.0	101.1
Not stated	927	1.7	386	0.9	140.2
Total Victoria	55,830	100.0	43,991	100.0	26.9

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

^(b) No Religion, so described.

Year of Arrival of Sri Lanka-born: 2016

Year of arrival ^(a)	Sri Lanka-born		Total OSB, Vic ^(c)	
	Persons	%	Persons	%
Before 1996	17,755	31.8	716,865	42.7
1996 - 2000	4,255	7.6	104,975	6.2
2001 - 2005	5,791	10.4	149,043	8.9
2006 - 2010	13,076	23.4	269,729	16.1
2011 - 2016 ^(b)	13,737	24.6	381,130	22.7
Not stated	1,223	2.2	58,517	3.5
Total Victoria	55,830	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 Sri Lanka-born: 2016, 2011

Proficiency in English	2016		2011		2011-16 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
Speaks English only	13,431	24.1	12,318	28.0	9.0
<i>Speaks other languages and speaks English</i>					
Very well	25,650	45.9	19,338	44.0	32.6
Well	13,469	24.1	10,159	23.1	32.6
Not well	2,567	4.6	1,549	3.5	65.7
Not at all	307	0.5	213	0.5	44.1
Not stated ^(a)	414	0.7	416	0.9	-0.5
Total Victoria	55,830	100.0	43,991	100.0	26.9

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

Sri Lanka-born with Australian Citizenship by Age: 2016, 2011

Age group (years)	2016		2011		2011-16 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
0-4	50	0.2	43	0.2	16.3
5-11	700	2.1	557	2.1	25.7
12-18	1,448	4.4	954	3.5	51.8
19-25	1,543	4.7	1,660	6.1	-7.0
26-44	10,911	33.1	8,634	31.8	26.4
45-64	12,484	37.9	11,138	41.0	12.1
65-74	3,695	11.2	2,384	8.8	55.0
75+	2,113	6.4	1,787	6.6	18.2
Total	32,949	100.0	27,170	100.0	21.3

% of Sri Lanka-born with Australian citizenship, 2016: 59.0%

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

Economic characteristics

The education levels of the Sri Lanka-born are higher than those for total Victoria: 10.1% have a postgraduate degree; 25.2% have a bachelor degree; and 16.3% have an advanced diploma or diploma, compared to 5.4%, 16.5% and 9.2% for Victoria.

The labour force participation rate of the Sri Lanka-born at 72.0% is higher than that of total Victoria at 60.5%. The unemployment rate for the Sri Lanka-born at 8.2% is also higher than for total Victoria at 6.6%.

The occupational patterns of the Sri Lanka-born are fairly similar to those for total Victoria. Less of the Sri Lanka-born are managers (10.2%), technicians and trades workers (10.2%) and sales workers (6.1%), compared to 13.5%, 13.1% and 9.7% for Victoria. More of them are professionals (26.8%) and labourers (14.3%), compared to 23.3% and 9.0% for Victoria.

The industry of employment patterns of the Sri Lanka-born are different to those for total Victoria. More of the Sri Lanka-born are employed in manufacturing (10.6%), professional, scientific, technical & administration (15.7%) and health care & social assistance (16.6%), compared to 7.8%, 11.4% and 12.5% for total Victoria. Less of them are employed in construction (2.7%), wholesale & retail trade (11.1%) and education & training (6.1%), compared to 8.3%, 13.4% and 8.6% for Victoria.

The weekly personal income distribution pattern for the Sri Lanka-born is different to that for total Victoria. More of the Sri Lanka-born receive nil income (13.4%), \$800-\$1,249 (21.0%), \$1,250-\$1,999 (15.4%) and \$2,000 or more (7.7%), compared to 9.7%, 16.7%, 13.6% and 7.5% for Victoria. Less of them receive \$1-\$399 (17.1%) and \$400-\$799 (22.4%), compared to 20.1% and 23.1% for Victoria.

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

Highest level of educational attainment ^(a)	Sri Lanka-born						Total Victoria					
	2016		2011		Change 2011-2016		2016		2011		Change 2011-2016	
	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	% change	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	% change
Postgraduate Degree	5,247	10.1	3,211	7.8	2,036	63.4	260,039	5.4	170,382	3.9	89,657	52.6
Grad Dip & Grad Cert	1,378	2.6	869	2.1	509	58.6	119,226	2.5	95,352	2.2	23,874	25.0
Bachelor Degree	13,131	25.2	9,526	23.3	3,605	37.8	798,270	16.5	641,219	14.7	157,051	24.5
Advanced Dip & Diploma	8,520	16.3	6,748	16.5	1,772	26.3	447,023	9.2	364,758	8.4	82,265	22.6
Certificate	4,579	8.8	3,944	9.6	635	16.1	698,036	14.4	614,689	14.1	83,347	13.6
School Education only ^(b)	15,948	30.6	13,101	32.0	2,847	21.7	1,877,183	38.7	1,876,620	43.1	563	0.0
No Educ Attainment ^(c)	160	0.3	76	0.2	84	110.5	48,920	1.0	41,809	1.0	7,111	17.0
Not stated etc ^(d)	3,212	6.2	3,488	8.5	-276	-7.9	597,010	12.3	550,419	12.6	46,591	8.5
Victoria	52,177	100.0	40,959	100.0	11,218	27.4	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, Sri Lanka-born and Total Victoria: 2016, 2011

Labour force participation ^(a)	Sri Lanka-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>	37,552	67.3	29,601	67.3	7,951	26.9	2,929,590	49.4	2,675,478	50.0	254,112	9.5
Employed	34,489	61.8	27,606	62.8	6,883	24.9	2,736,125	46.2	2,530,635	47.3	205,490	8.1
Unemployed	3,063	5.5	1,995	4.5	1,068	53.5	193,465	3.3	144,843	2.7	48,622	33.6
<i>Not in the labour force</i>	14,123	25.3	10,775	24.5	3,348	31.1	1,610,130	27.2	1,451,593	27.1	158,537	10.9
<i>Not stated</i>	506	0.9	587	1.3	-81	-13.8	305,978	5.2	228,176	4.3	77,802	34.1
<i>Not applicable</i> ^(b)	3,655	6.5	3,034	6.9	621	20.5	1,080,919	18.2	998,793	18.7	82,126	8.2
Victoria	55,830	100.0	43,991	100.0	11,839	26.9	5,926,624	100.0	5,354,039	100.0	572,585	10.7
<i>Participation rate</i> ^(c)	72.0%		72.3%				60.5%		61.4%			
<i>Unemployment rate</i> ^(d)	8.2%		6.7%				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, Sri Lanka-born and Total Victoria: 2016, 2011

Occupation ^(a)	Sri Lanka-born						Total Victoria					
	2016		2011		Change 2011-2016		2016		2011		Change 2011-2016	
	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%
Managers	3,501	10.2	2,513	9.1	988	39.3	369,921	13.5	332,931	13.2	36,990	11.1
Professionals	9,239	26.8	7,105	25.7	2,134	30.0	636,220	23.3	564,779	22.3	71,441	12.6
Technicians and trades workers	3,530	10.2	2,930	10.6	600	20.5	358,749	13.1	350,757	13.9	7,992	2.3
Community&personal serv. wkrs	3,418	9.9	2,486	9.0	932	37.5	289,348	10.6	234,380	9.3	54,968	23.5
Clerical & administrative workers	5,090	14.8	4,585	16.6	505	11.0	363,216	13.3	364,497	14.4	-1,281	-0.4
Sales workers	2,104	6.1	1,924	7.0	180	9.4	265,142	9.7	245,335	9.7	19,807	8.1
Machinery operators & drivers	2,119	6.1	1,760	6.4	359	20.4	159,193	5.8	154,542	6.1	4,651	3.0
Labourers	4,920	14.3	3,664	13.3	1,256	34.3	247,428	9.0	227,184	9.0	20,244	8.9
Not stated ^(b)	567	1.6	646	2.3	-79	-12.2	46,924	1.7	56,224	2.2	-9,300	-16.5
Victoria	34,489	100.0	27,606	100.0	6,883	24.9	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, Sri Lanka-born and Total Victoria: 2016, 2011

Industry of employment ^(a)	Sri Lanka-born						Total Victoria					
	2016		2011		Change 2011-2016		2016		2011		Change 2011-2016	
	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%
Agri, forestry, fishing & mining	175	0.5	112	0.4	63	56.3	70,052	2.6	66,176	2.6	3,876	5.9
Manufacturing	3,643	10.6	3,892	14.1	-249	-6.4	212,723	7.8	271,051	10.7	-58,328	-21.5
Electr, gas, water & waste	417	1.2	326	1.2	91	27.9	30,808	1.1	27,630	1.1	3,178	11.5
Construction	931	2.7	639	2.3	292	45.7	228,149	8.3	210,972	8.3	17,177	8.1
Wholesale & retail trade	3,827	11.1	3,547	12.8	280	7.9	367,953	13.4	387,813	15.3	-19,860	-5.1
Accommod & Food services	2,016	5.8	1,798	6.5	218	12.1	180,825	6.6	153,898	6.1	26,927	17.5
Transp, postal & warehousing	2,063	6.0	1,626	5.9	437	26.9	130,069	4.8	118,214	4.7	11,855	10.0
Information, Media & Telecomm	804	2.3	619	2.2	185	29.9	52,200	1.9	50,091	2.0	2,109	4.2
Finance & Insurance	2,122	6.2	1,960	7.1	162	8.3	106,669	3.9	104,701	4.1	1,968	1.9
Rental, Hiring & Real Estate	362	1.0	210	0.8	152	72.4	43,013	1.6	35,046	1.4	7,967	22.7
Prof, Scientific, Tech & Admin	5,404	15.7	3,949	14.3	1,455	36.8	310,711	11.4	279,422	11.0	31,289	11.2
Public Admin & Safety	1,662	4.8	1,567	5.7	95	6.1	144,321	5.3	134,949	5.3	9,372	6.9
Education & Training	2,088	6.1	1,409	5.1	679	48.2	236,276	8.6	202,317	8.0	33,959	16.8
Health Care & Soc Assistance	5,732	16.6	4,148	15.0	1,584	38.2	341,999	12.5	292,417	11.6	49,582	17.0
Arts, Recreation & Other serv	1,335	3.9	1,067	3.9	268	25.1	151,019	5.5	134,750	5.3	16,269	12.1
Inadeq Described/Not Stated	1,923	5.6	724	2.6	1,199	165.6	129,326	4.7	61,173	2.4	68,153	111.4
Victoria	34,489	100.0	27,606	100.0	6,883	24.9	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), Sri Lanka-born and Total Victoria: 2016, 2011

Total personal income, weekly ^(a)	Sri Lanka-born						Total Victoria					
	2016		2011		Change 2011-2016		2016		2011		Change 2011-2016	
	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%
Negative income	390	0.7	286	0.7	104	36.4	27,122	0.6	26,342	0.6	780	3.0
Nil income	6,989	13.4	4,619	11.3	2,370	51.3	467,934	9.7	351,430	8.1	116,504	33.2
\$1-399	8,912	17.1	9,558	23.3	-646	-6.8	975,345	20.1	1,224,693	28.1	-249,348	-20.4
\$400-\$799	11,688	22.4	9,502	23.2	2,186	23.0	1,118,244	23.1	964,124	22.1	154,120	16.0
\$800-\$1,249	10,945	21.0	8,424	20.6	2,521	29.9	811,256	16.7	715,662	16.4	95,594	13.4
\$1,250-\$1,999	8,023	15.4	5,175	12.6	2,848	55.0	658,020	13.6	491,972	11.3	166,048	33.8
\$2,000 or more	3,999	7.7	2,262	5.5	1,737	76.8	364,675	7.5	246,379	5.7	118,296	48.0
Not stated	1,243	2.4	1,142	2.8	101	8.8	423,108	8.7	334,649	7.7	88,459	26.4
Victoria	52,177	100.0	40,959	100.0	11,218	27.4	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*.