

The Croatians have a long settlement history in Australia. They first settled in the goldfields of Victoria in the 1850s. The next wave of migrants arrived prior to World War I and in the inter-war period due to dissatisfaction with political developments at home, with many of them having settled in the fruit-growing districts around Mildura. Large numbers also migrated in the decades following World War II, fleeing post-war political changes. Among them were displaced persons and political and economic migrants. In fact, 75.3% of the Croatia-born in Victoria had arrived in Australia prior to 1986. More recently, Victoria has received Croatian refugees from the Balkan conflicts that erupted after the break-up of the former Yugoslavia in 1991.

At the 2006 Census, there were 18,189 Croatia-born persons in Victoria (35.7% of Australia's total), decreasing by 4.2% from 18,981 persons in 2001, mainly due to ageing of the population. The Croatia-born community was well distributed throughout Victoria, with distinct concentrations in Brimbank (17.0%) and Greater Geelong (9.0%). There were 38,960 persons identified with Croatian ancestry, including second and later generations.

The Croatia-born community showed an older age profile: 18.8% were aged 26-44 years; 43.1% were aged 45-64 years; and 31.5% were aged 65 and over. The median age was 57 years, compared to 37 years for the total Victorian population. The gender ratio was 103 males to 100 females. The main language spoken at home was Croatian (68.8%), and 15.6% spoke English only. A significant percentage (20.2%) identified themselves as speaking English not well or not at all. The majority (81.0%) were Western Catholic. Most (95.1%) of the Croatia-born held Australian Citizenship, compared to 67.5% for the total overseas-born population in Victoria.

Demographic Background: 2006 Census

	2006 Census		2001 Census		1996 Census		2001-2006 % change	1996-2001 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%		
Melbourne	15,366	30.1	16,099	31.0	14,797	31.5	-4.6	8.8
Rest of Victoria ¹	2,823	5.5	2,882	5.6	2,796	6.0	-2.0	3.1
Total Victoria	18,189	35.7	18,981	36.6	17,593	37.4	-4.2	7.9
Total Australia	50,993	100.0	51,909	100.0	46,981	100.0	-1.8	10.5

¹ Includes "No Usual Address, Victoria"

2 Distribution of Croatia-born, Top 5 Local Govt Areas: 2006, 2001 Census

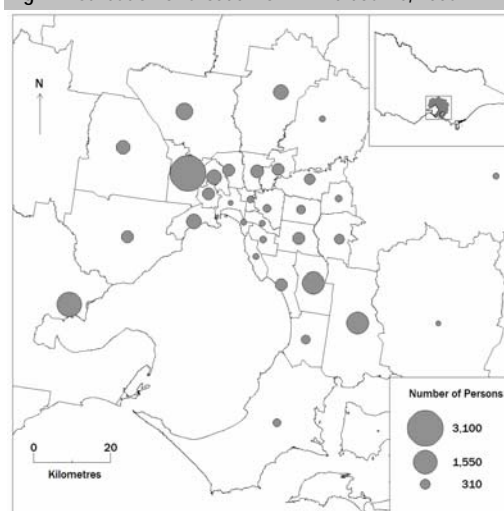
Local Government Area	2006 Census		2001 Census		Rank in 2001
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
Brimbank (C)	3,091	17.0	3,484	18.4	1
Greater Geelong (C)	1,644	9.0	1,728	9.1	2
Casey (C)	1,287	7.1	1,165	6.1	4
Greater Dandenong (C)	1,277	7.0	1,244	6.6	3
Hume (C)	828	4.6	932	4.9	5
Rest of LGAs in Metro Melb	8,884	48.8	9,278	48.9	
Rest of LGAs in Reg. Vic	1,180	6.5	1,146	6.0	
Total Victoria	18,191	100.0	18,977	100.0	

3 Persons Identifying with Croatian Ancestry, Total Responses, 2006, 2001

	2006 Census	2001 Census	2001-2006 % change
Croatian ancestry			
Total First & Second Responses¹	38,960	36,014	8.2
Total Croatia-born, persons	18,189	18,981	-4.2

¹ Respondents had the option of nominating several ancestries, but only the first two responses were processed in the Census.

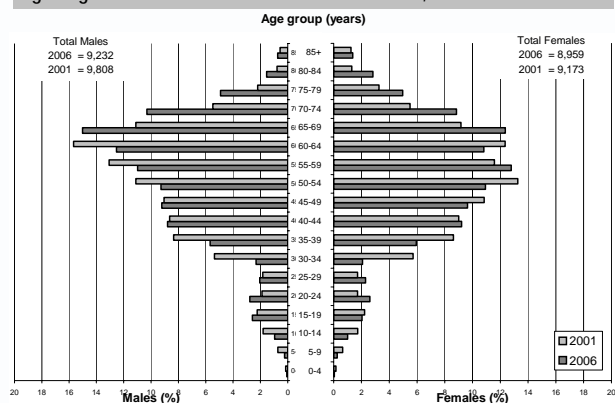
Fig 1: Distribution of Croatia-Born in Melbourne, 2006



4 Age and Gender Distribution of Croatia-born: 2006, 2001

Age group (years)	2006 Census		2001 Census		2001-2006 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
0-4	9	0.0	30	0.2	-70.0
5-11	85	0.5	246	1.3	-65.4
12-18	465	2.6	556	2.9	-16.4
19-25	658	3.6	494	2.6	33.2
26-44	3,414	18.8	4,606	24.3	-25.9
45-64	7,836	43.1	9,200	48.5	-14.8
65-74	4,238	23.3	2,970	15.6	42.7
75+	1,486	8.2	879	4.6	69.1
Total	18,191	100.0	18,981	100.0	-4.2
<i>Sex Ratio</i>	<i>103</i>		<i>males per 100 females</i>		

Fig 2: Age and Gender Distribution of Croatia-Born, 2006



5 Top 5 Languages Spoken at Home by Croatia-born: 2006, 2001

Language	2006 Census		2001 Census		2001-2006 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
Croatian	12,513	68.8	14,152	74.5	-11.6
Serbian	1,507	8.3	1,045	5.5	44.2
Italian	424	2.3	388	2.0	9.3
Serbo-Croat etc.	319	1.8	N/A	-	N/A
Bosnian	115	0.6	138	0.7	-16.7
English only	2,845	15.6	2,422	12.8	17.5
Other languages ¹	355	2.0	739	3.9	-52.0
Not stated	113	0.6	106	0.6	6.6
Total	18,191	100.0	18,990	100.0	-4.2

¹ Includes 'Inadequately described' and 'Non-verbal so described'.

6 Proficiency in English of Croatia-born: 2006, 2001

Proficiency in English	2006 Census		2001 Census		2001-2006 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
Speaks English only	2,844	15.6	2,441	12.8	16.5
<i>Speaks other language and speaks English</i>					
Very well	5,580	30.7	5,745	30.1	-2.9
Well	5,853	32.2	6,519	34.2	-10.2
Not well	3,317	18.2	3,770	19.8	-12.0
Not at all	368	2.0	401	2.1	-8.2
Not stated ¹	225	1.2	196	1.0	14.8
Total	18,187	100.0	19,072	100.0	-4.6

¹ Includes those who did not state a language or proficiency in English.

7 Top 5 Religions of Croatia-born: 2006, 2001

Religion	2006 Census		2001 Census		2001-2006 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
Western Catholic	14,725	81.0	16,198	85.3	-9.1
Serbian O'dox	1,209	6.6	974	5.1	24.1
Eastern O'dox nfd	440	2.4	214	1.1	105.6
Greek Orthodox	144	0.8	62	0.3	132.3
Christian, nfd	105	0.6	91	0.5	15.4
Other religions	555	3.1	584	3.1	-5.0
No religion	595	3.3	489	2.6	21.7
Not stated ¹	416	2.3	385	2.0	8.1
Total	18,189	100.0	18,997	100.0	-4.3

¹ Includes 'Religious Belief, nfd and 'Not Defined'.

8 Croatia-born with Australian Citizenship by Age, 2006, 2001

Age group (years)	2006 Census		2001 Census		2001-2006 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
0-4	4	0.0	22	0.1	-81.8
5-11	73	0.4	186	1.1	-60.8
12-18	427	2.5	437	2.5	-2.3
19-25	591	3.4	364	2.1	62.4
26-44	3,169	18.3	4,152	23.5	-23.7
45-64	7,548	43.6	8,831	50.0	-14.5
65-74	4,113	23.8	2,862	16.2	43.7
75+	1,373	7.9	802	4.5	71.2
Total	17,298	100.0	17,656	100.0	-2.0

Source of data: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2006 Population and Housing Census, Persons counted at Place of Usual Residence.

Some country background information is sourced from Jupp, J ed. (2001) *The Australian People*, Cambridge University Press, UK; and the Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs, *Country Information Summary* series, 2004.

For more detailed tables on a wider range of demographic and socio-economic variables from the 2006 Census, refer to *Community Profiles Series: 2006 Census* available on the Victorian Multicultural Commission website: www.multicultural.vic.gov.au