

The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) became an independent state in 1991 and was categorised as a birthplace country for the first time in the 1996 Census. The population of FYROM had originated from the wider Macedonian region and from northern Greece. Census statistics based on country of origin do not reflect the number of Macedonians in Australia. They have had a long settlement history, arriving in waves since the early 20th Century, and in increasing numbers to meet labour shortages during the post World War II boom in Australia in the 1960s and 1970s.

At the 2006 Census, there were 18,319 FYROM-born persons in Victoria (45.1% of Australia's total), decreasing by 6.3% from 19,560 persons in 2001, partly due to the ageing of the population. Over two-thirds (69.7%) had arrived prior to 1986. The FYROM-born community was distributed throughout metropolitan Melbourne, with distinct concentrations in Whittlesea (30.7%) and Brimbank (20.4%). There were 37,433 persons who identified with Macedonian ancestry, including second and later generations.

The FYROM-born community showed an older age profile: 49.4% were aged between 45 and 64 years and 16.4% were aged 65 years and over. The median age was 51 years, compared to 37 years for the total Victorian population. There were 104 males to 100 females. Most of the community spoke Macedonian at home (82.6%); 8.1% spoke Albanian; and 5.9% spoke English only. A relatively large percentage (26.7%) assessed themselves as speaking English not well or not at all. Over half (57.0%) followed the Macedonian Orthodox faith; 20.0% were Eastern Orthodox (not further defined); 9.9% were Muslim; and 5.7% were Greek Orthodox. Most (93.1%) held Australian Citizenship, compared to 67.5% for the total overseas-born population in Victoria.

Demographic Background: 2006 Census

1 Persons born in FYR Macedonia in Victoria and Australia: 2006, 2001 and 1996 Census

	2006 Census		2001 Census		1996 Census		2001-2006 % change	1996-2001 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%		
Melbourne	17,286	42.5	18,479	42.5	17,937	42.5	-6.5	3.0
Rest of Victoria ¹	1,033	2.5	1,081	2.5	1,071	2.5	-4.4	0.9
Total Victoria	18,319	45.1	19,560	44.9	19,008	45.0	-6.3	2.9
Total Australia	40,655	100.0	43,527	100.0	42,199	100.0	-6.6	3.1

¹ Includes "No Usual Address, Victoria"

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

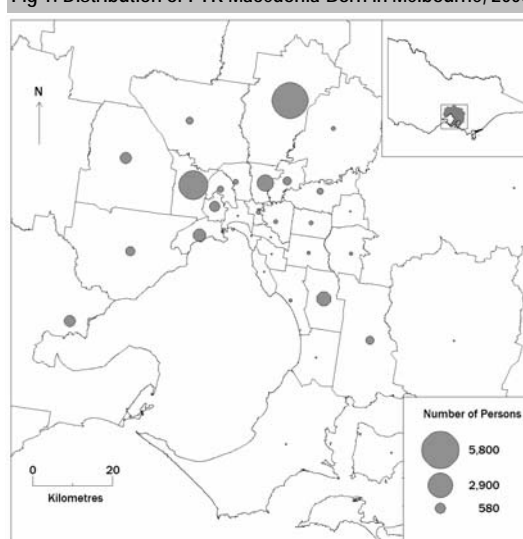
Local Government Area	2006 Census		2001 Census		Rank in 2001
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
Whittlesea (C)	5,623	30.7	6,124	31.3	1
Brimbank (C)	3,737	20.4	4,226	21.6	2
Darebin (C)	1,456	7.9	1,752	9.0	3
Greater Dandenong (C)	1,049	5.7	1,103	5.6	4
Hobsons Bay (C)	828	4.5	934	4.8	5
Rest of LGAs in Metro Melb	4,572	25.0	4,332	22.2	
Rest of LGAs in Reg. Vic	1,050	5.7	1,065	5.5	
Total Victoria	18,315	100.0	19,536	100.0	

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

Macedonian ancestry	2006 Census	2001 Census	2001-2006 % change
Total First & Second Responses ¹	37,433	36,616	2.2
Total FYR Macedonia-born, persons	18,319	19,560	-6.3

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

Fig 1: Distribution of FYR Macedonia-Born in Melbourne, 2006



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

Age group (years)	2006 Census		2001 Census		2001-2006 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
0-4	25	0.1	54	0.3	-53.7
5-11	121	0.7	223	1.1	-45.7
12-18	338	1.8	634	3.2	-46.7
19-25	849	4.6	957	4.9	-11.3
26-44	4,942	27.0	6,425	32.8	-23.1
45-64	9,040	49.4	8,831	45.1	2.4
65-74	2,105	11.5	1,757	9.0	19.8
75+	894	4.9	680	3.5	31.5
Total	18,314	100.0	19,561	100.0	-6.4
<i>Sex Ratio</i>	<i>104</i>		<i>males per 100 females</i>		

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

Language	2006 Census		2001 Census		2001-2006 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
Macedonian	15,120	82.6	16,458	84.2	-8.1
Albanian	1,489	8.1	1,563	8.0	-4.7
Turkish	107	0.6	120	0.6	-10.8
Serbian	95	0.5	95	0.5	0.0
Greek	59	0.3	82	0.4	-28.0
English only	1,084	5.9	798	4.1	35.8
Other languages ¹	254	1.4	357	1.8	-28.9
Not stated	107	0.6	82	0.4	30.5
Total	18,315	100.0	19,555	100.0	-6.3

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

7 Top 5 Religions of FYR Macedonia-born: 2006, 2001

Religion	2006 Census		2001 Census		2001-2006 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
Maced. O'dox	10,441	57.0	12,434	63.6	-16.0
Eastern O'dox nfd	3,672	20.0	3,065	15.7	19.8
Islam	1,817	9.9	2,131	10.9	-14.7
Greek Orthodox	1,048	5.7	970	5.0	8.0
Western Catholic	74	0.4	75	0.4	-1.3
Other religions	438	2.4	379	1.9	15.6
No religion	295	1.6	143	0.7	106.3
Not stated ¹	530	2.9	366	1.9	44.8
Total	18,315	100.0	19,563	100.0	-6.4

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

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.

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



6 Proficiency in English of FYR Macedonia-born: 2006, 2001

Proficiency in English	2006 Census		2001 Census		2001-2006 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
Speaks English only	1,082	5.9	798	4.1	35.6
<i>Speaks other language and speaks English</i>					
Very well	5,852	31.9	6,060	30.9	-3.4
Well	6,235	34.0	6,875	35.1	-9.3
Not well	4,344	23.7	4,848	24.8	-10.4
Not at all	552	3.0	671	3.4	-17.7
Not stated ¹	255	1.4	328	1.7	-22.3
Total	18,320	100.0	19,580	100.0	-6.4

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

8 FYR Macedonia-born with Australian Citizenship by Age, 2006, 2001

Age group (years)	2006 Census		2001 Census		2001-2006 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
0-4	21	0.1	42	0.2	-50.0
5-11	102	0.6	162	0.9	-37.0
12-18	281	1.6	533	3.0	-47.3
19-25	659	3.9	740	4.1	-10.9
26-44	4,483	26.3	5,776	32.1	-22.4
45-64	8,675	50.9	8,441	47.0	2.8
65-74	2,009	11.8	1,667	9.3	20.5
75+	824	4.8	617	3.4	33.5
Total	17,054	100.0	17,978	100.0	-5.1

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