

FEATURE ARTICLE – A Century of Population Change in Western Australia

INTRODUCTION

During the course of the twentieth century, Western Australia's population grew tenfold to 1.9 million, increasing as a proportion of Australia's population from 5% to 10%.

This article traces shifts in the profile of the Western Australian population since 1901, including changes in fertility, mortality and migration. The data have been drawn from ABS collections, including population censuses and surveys, as well as administrative sources covering births, deaths, marriages, divorces and overseas migration.

POPULATION GROWTH

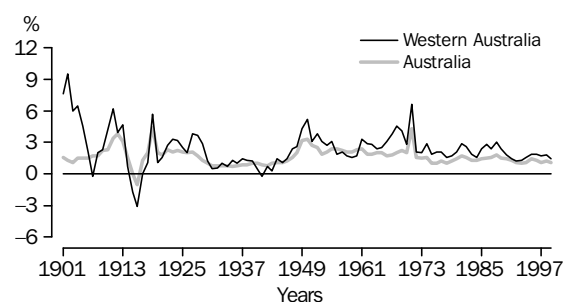
At Federation (1 January 1901), Western Australia's population was estimated at 189,000. For the first few years of the century, the State's annual rate of population growth was much higher than the national rate, peaking at 9.5% in 1902. By 1907, it had fallen to zero. Thereafter, population growth in the State exhibited the same peaks and troughs as in Australia, although Western Australia's annual rate of growth remained higher for most of the century.

Prior to World War II, population growth was erratic, ranging from 9.5% in 1902 to -3.1% in 1916. While fertility and mortality rates were generally declining, there were large fluctuations in overseas migration. During the two world wars and the Depression, net overseas migration (permanent and long-term arrivals minus permanent and long-term departures) fell below zero.

From 1945 onwards, the rate of growth was less volatile, remaining positive and averaging around 3% per year. This was mainly due to higher levels of migration and higher birth rates, both of which were sustained until around 1971. In the post-war period, there were two peaks in population growth, the first in 1952 when the crude birth rate (number of live births registered per 1,000 of the estimated resident population) rose to 25.7, marking the height of the baby boom. The second peak occurred in 1971, during the second wave of post-war migration and at a time when the older 'baby boomers' were starting to have children.

After 1971, net overseas migration and natural increase (births minus deaths) continued to be the two main contributors to population growth. In the last three decades, natural increase consistently contributed between 12,000 and 16,000 people per year to the State's population. The largest net gains from overseas migration were in the 1980s, peaking at 24,200 people in 1989. However, annual gains from net overseas migration were generally more erratic, falling as low as 2,300 in 1976. Since 1996, they have remained steady, with net gains of about 12,000 people per year.

ANNUAL POPULATION GROWTH—1901–1999



POPULATION STRUCTURE

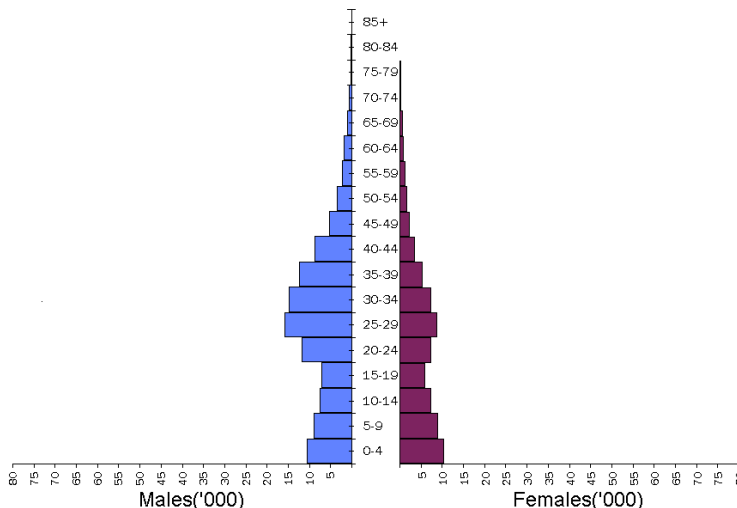
In 1901, Western Australia's population was much younger than it is today and men outnumbered women by three to two. At that time, the 25–34 year age group represented 25% of the population, creating a visible bulge in the shape of the age–sex pyramid. Conversely, people aged 50 years and over represented only 8% of the population while those aged 65 years and over represented less than 2%. By the end of the century, the 25–34 age group accounted for only 15% of the population whereas the proportions aged 50 years and over and 65 years and over had increased to 26% and 11% respectively.

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POPULATION STRUCTURE *continued*

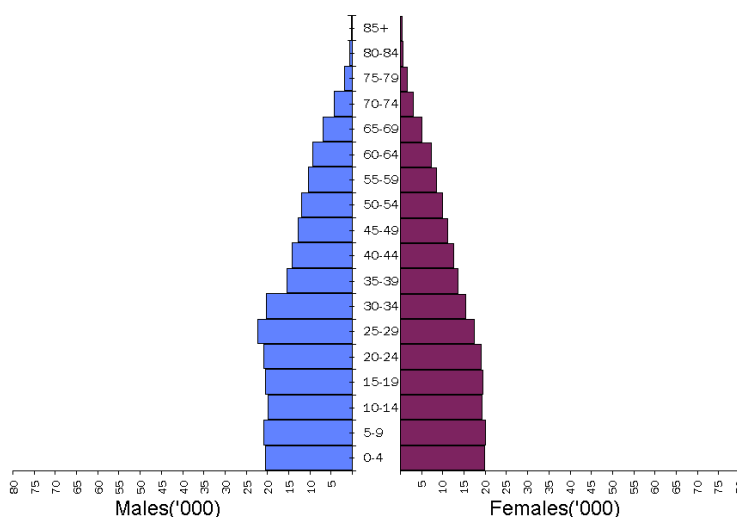
The sex ratio (number of males per 100 females) was 155.7 at the beginning of the twentieth century. This excess of males over females was primarily due to a higher proportion of males in the migrant intake during the preceding decades.

PROFILE OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA'S POPULATION, By Age—1901



By the 1920s, an increase in the proportion of female migrants and troop fatalities in World War I resulted in a reduced proportion of males in the population. At the same time, mortality rates were generally decreasing as a result of improved standards of living. These factors had a considerable impact on the age–sex structure of the population. By 1933, people age 50 years and over represented 19% of the population and the sex ratio was 114 males for every 100 females.

PROFILE OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA'S POPULATION, By Age—1933

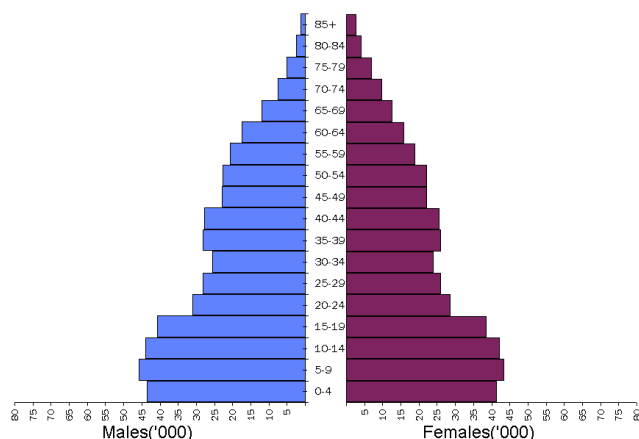


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POPULATION STRUCTURE *continued*

By 1966, the excess of males over females in the general population had further decreased with 104.2 males for every 100 females. The post-war baby boom had impacted on the age-sex pyramid, with a large increase in the number of children under 15 years. Between 1901 and 1966, this age group had increased fivefold from 53,000 to 260,000.

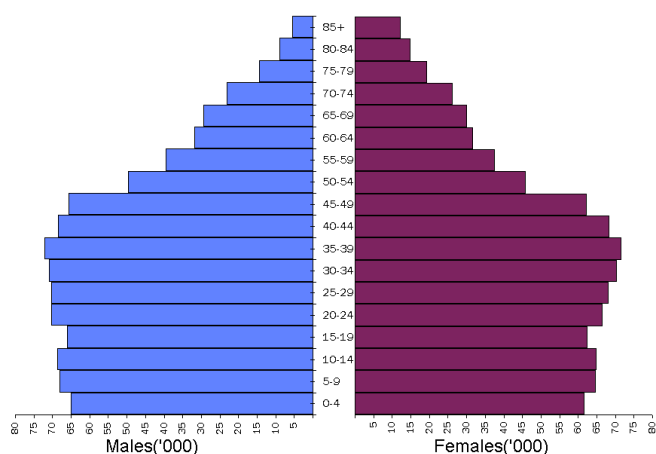
PROFILE OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA'S POPULATION, By Age—1966



By 1966, the sex ratio had almost achieved equilibrium (101.2 males per 100 females). However, the high masculinity of the migrant intake in the immediate post-war years was still reflected in the sex ratio for the 45–64 age group (105.3).

In the last three decades of the century, Western Australia's population aged significantly as a result of lower fertility and continuing falls in mortality. Between 1979 and 1996, the median age of the population rose from 29.1 to 33.1 years.

PROFILE OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA'S POPULATION, By Age—1996

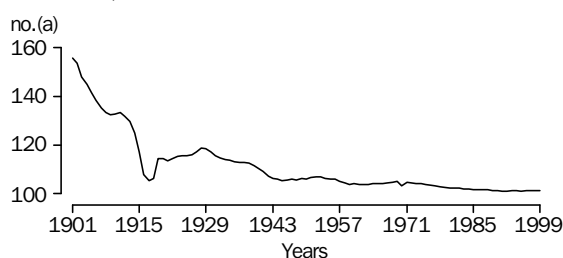


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POPULATION STRUCTURE *continued*

In 2000, 'baby boomers' born between 1945 and 1971, were estimated to represent over 40% of the State's population. The baby boom generation, being significantly larger than preceding and succeeding generations, will continue to impact on the age structure of the Western Australian population and to influence government policy for the next several decades. By 2031, they will be part of the population aged 60 years and over and are projected to represent over a quarter of the State's population.

SEX RATIO, Western Australia—1901–1999

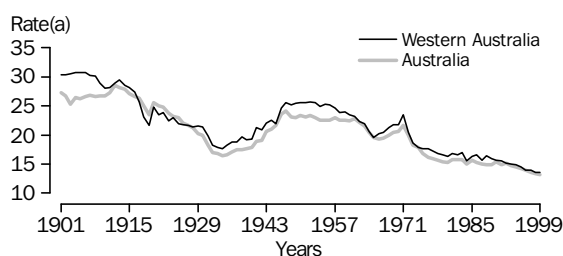


(a) Number of males per 100 females

FERTILITY

In 1901, there were 30.4 births for every 1,000 persons in the estimated resident population. After 1906, this crude birth rate began a steady decline, dropping to 21.7 after World War I. In the 1920s, the rate remained steady but began to fall again at the start of the Depression, sinking to 17.6 by 1934. Thereafter, the rate began to rise slowly, peaking at 25.7 in 1952 and generally remaining above 20.0 until 1973. From that time, the crude birth rate fell rapidly, sinking to its lowest ever recorded level (13.4) by 1999.

CRUDE BIRTH RATE—1901–1999



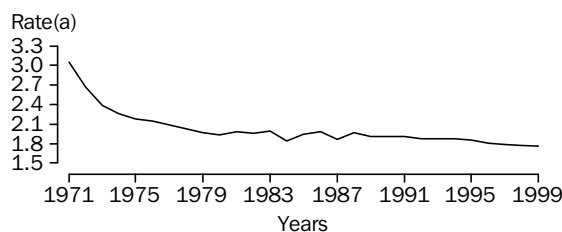
(a) Per 1,000 estimated resident population

The dramatic changes in the fertility of Western Australian women that occurred in the second half of the century are best illustrated by changes in the total fertility rate. This is defined as the number of children a woman would bear if the current age-specific fertility rates (number of live births to mothers at each age per 1,000 of the female population of that age) continued during her reproductive life. In the late 1940s, the start of the post-war baby boom, the total fertility rate reached 3.5 babies per woman and eventually peaked at 3.7 babies per woman in 1961.

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In the 1960s, the introduction of oral contraception, changing preferences on family size and women's increasing participation in paid employment caused the total fertility rate to fall. By 1966, it had fallen to 3.1. In the 1970s, it continued to fall rapidly, and by 1977, had fallen below replacement level (2.1 babies per woman). By 1979, the total fertility rate was 1.97, gradually dropping to 1.76 by the end of the century.

TOTAL FERTILITY RATE, Western Australia—1971–1999



(a) Number of children one woman would bear if the age-specific birth rate of the year continued during her child-bearing lifetime.

This fall in fertility coincided with the trend towards delayed motherhood. Between 1976 and 1999, the median age of mothers increased, for all births, from 25.5 years to 29.4 years. This trend towards delayed motherhood can also be seen in the decreasing proportion of births to mothers aged 20–24 years, which fell from 21% of all births in 1990 to 17% in 1999. Over the same period, the proportion of births to mothers aged 30–34 years increased from 27% to 30%.

LIFE EXPECTANCY

The life expectancy of both sexes increased throughout the century. However, females have a greater life expectancy than males and are estimated to have a genetic advantage of about two years of life (Hugo, 1986). The remainder of the difference can be attributed to behavioural and lifestyle patterns.

The difference between male and female life expectancy at the beginning of the twentieth century was 5.1 years, being 51.4 years for males at birth and 56.5 years for females. By 1981, the difference had increased to 7.2 years, with a life expectancy of 72.1 years for males and 79.3 years for females. In the last two decades, the gap in life expectancy between males and females gradually narrowed to 5.7 years. By the end of the century, life expectancy at birth was 76.4 years for males and 82.1 years for females.

LIFE EXPECTANCY, Western Australia

Selected Years	MALES	FEMALES	AGE DIFFERENCE
	Age (years)	Age (years)	(years)
1910 (a)	51.4	56.5	5.1
1971	68.4	75.3	6.9
1981	72.1	79.3	7.2
1991	75.0	80.9	5.9
1999	76.4	82.1	5.7

(a) Estimated life expectancy for the period 1901 to 1910.

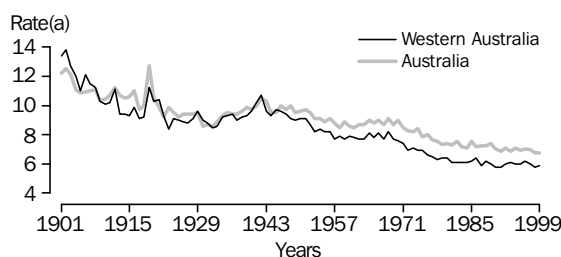
FEATURE ARTICLE – A Century of Population Change in Western Australia *continued*

MORTALITY

Mortality rates in Western Australia declined throughout the twentieth century. The reduction in mortality in the early decades has been attributed to improvements in living standards resulting from better food, health education, water and sewerage systems. From 1901 to 1950, the crude death rate (number of deaths registered per 1,000 of the estimated resident population) fell from 13.4 to 9.1.

In the latter half of the century, the crude death rate dropped faster and further in Western Australia than in Australia. Continuing reductions in mortality since World War II have been attributed to improved social conditions and advances in medical technology, including immunisation and antibiotics (Jain, 1994). By 1999, the crude death rate had declined to 5.9.

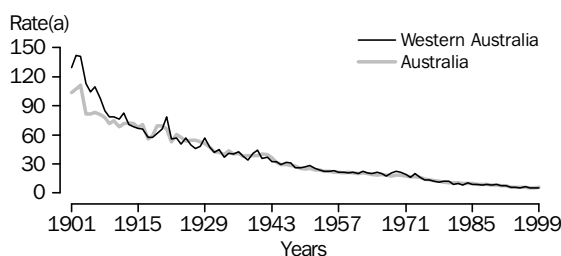
CRUDE DEATH RATE—1901–1999



(a) Per 1,000 of estimated resident population

Declining mortality rates were most evident in the age group 0–12 months. Over the century, the infant mortality rate (number of deaths of children under one year of age per 1,000 live births) fell from 128.9 to 4.7.

INFANT MORTALITY RATE—1901–1999

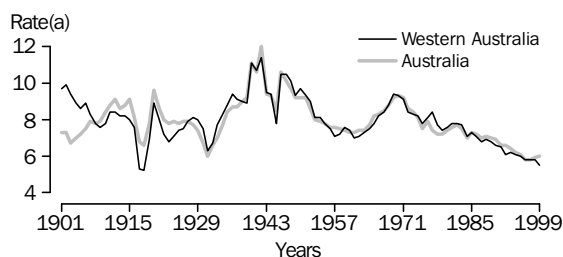


(a) Per 1,000 live births

MARRIAGE

During the twentieth century, the crude marriage rate (annual number of registered marriages per 1,000 of the estimated resident population) fell in times of economic recession and increased during and immediately after the two world wars. In 1901, the crude marriage rate was 9.7, increasing to 11.4 by 1942, the highest on record for the State. Later in the century, the crude marriage rate fell, declining from 9.4 in 1969 to 5.5 in 1999.

CRUDE MARRIAGE RATE—1901–1999



(a) Per 1,000 of estimated resident population

FEATURE ARTICLE – A Century of Population Change in Western Australia *continued*

MARRIAGE *continued*

The decline in the popularity of registered marriage in recent decades is associated with a rise in the incidence of de facto marriage. By 1999, de facto marriages accounted for 11% of all couple relationships. The proportion of de facto marriages was highest among people aged 25–29 years and was also high in the age groups 20–24 years and 30–34 years. The 1992 ABS Survey of Families found that, of the people living in de facto relationship, 70% had never been in a registered marriage, 22% were divorced and 7% were separated.

During the last three decades of the twentieth century, there was a growing trend among Western Australians to marry later in life. In 1977, the median age at first marriage was 21.1 years for brides and 23.7 years for bridegrooms. By 1999, this median age had increased to 26.5 years for brides and 28.5 years for bridegrooms.

MEDIAN AGE AT FIRST MARRIAGE, Western Australia

Selected Years	BRIDE	GROOM
	Age (years)	Age (years)
1977	21.1	23.7
1989	24.1	26.3
1999	26.5	28.5

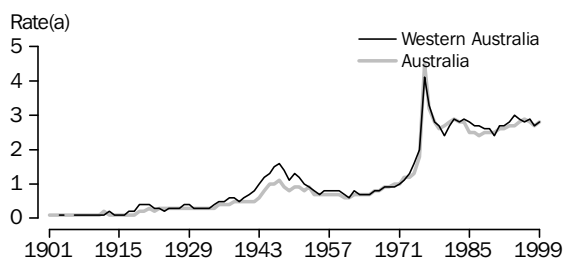
DIVORCE

The number of divorces in Western Australia remained relatively low prior to the passage of the *Family Law Act (1975)* which made irrevocable breakdown of marriage the sole ground for divorce.

In most years prior to 1976, the crude divorce rate (annual number of decrees made absolute per 1,000 of the estimated resident population) remained below 1.0. However, in the years following World War II the divorce rate did increase slightly, reaching 1.6 in 1948.

The crude divorce rate peaked at 4.6 in 1976 as a backlog of divorces was cleared following the passage of the Act. By 1979, the crude divorce rate had stabilised around 2.7.

CRUDE DIVORCE RATE—1901–1999



(a) Per 1,000 estimated resident population

MIGRATION

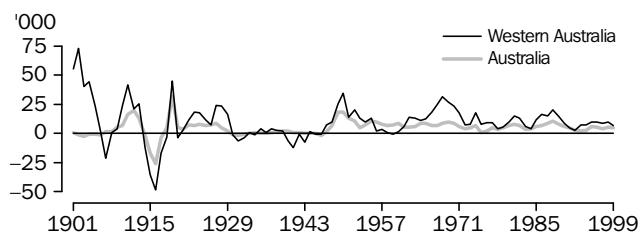
Although Western Australia is home to only 10% of the nation's population, it has generally attracted a higher share of net overseas migration. Since the 1970s, its share of permanent and long term overseas arrivals has been fairly stable, at 13% and 11% respectively.

Mobility within Australia appears to have been high throughout the century. It has been estimated that, on average, Australians will move eleven times during their lifetime, if 1985–86 migration rates and 1985–87 mortality rates are maintained (Bell, 1996).

In the last quarter of the century, interstate migration was characterised by a northward and westward drift away from the south–eastern corner of Australia, resulting in large net population gains for Queensland and Western Australia in some years. However, annual interstate migration into Western Australia has been quite volatile, ranging from a gain of 9,100 persons in 1976 to a loss of 1,800 persons in 1991.

The largest fluctuations in migration (when net interstate and overseas migration are combined) occurred prior to World War II, with population losses exceeding gains in some years. In the second half of the century, Western Australia consistently gained population from migration.

NET INTERSTATE AND OVERSEAS MIGRATION(a)—1901–1999



(a) Current methodology for estimating interstate migration between censuses has only been in use since 1986.

The changing composition of Western Australia's population reflects the migration waves that occurred over the last century. The clearest trend over the last hundred years is the relative decline in the significance of the United Kingdom as a source country and the increasing diversity of birthplaces represented in the population. In 1901, 31% of Western Australians had been born overseas: of those, 45% had been born in England.

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Prior to World War II, migrants from the United Kingdom and Ireland, who travelled on assisted passages, dominated the flow into the State and the nation. By 1911, the only significant change was an increase in the number of migrants from South Africa, arriving as a consequence of Australia's intervention in the Boer War. Net overseas migration fell below zero during the economic depression of the 1930s and the two world wars.

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN POPULATION BORN OVERSEAS, Top Six

Countries—1901

<i>Country of Birth</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Proportion of overseas-born</i>	<i>Proportion of total population</i>
England	25 380	44.8	13.8
Ireland	9 862	17.4	5.4
Scotland	5 400	9.5	2.9
New Zealand	2 704	4.8	1.5
Germany	1 522	2.7	0.8
China	1 475	2.6	0.8
Total overseas-born	56 613	..	30.7

Following World War II, Australia welcomed high levels of immigration as a rapidly growing population was seen as essential to continued economic success. In Western Australia, the first wave of post-war migrants occurred between 1947 and 1957 and largely comprised migrants from the United Kingdom and Italy, as well as displaced persons from northern and eastern Europe. By 1954, the proportion of the overseas-born population born in England had declined to 42% while those born in Italy had grown to be the second largest group (12%).

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN POPULATION BORN OVERSEAS, Top Six

Countries—1954

<i>Country of Birth</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Proportion of overseas-born</i>	<i>Proportion of total population</i>
England	63 322	42.2	9.9
Italy	17 295	11.5	2.7
Scotland	13 185	8.8	2.1
Netherlands	8 490	5.7	1.3
Poland	5 130	3.4	0.8
Yugoslavia	4 584	3.1	0.7
Total overseas-born	150 017	..	23.5

The second, larger wave of migrants occurred between 1962 to 1971 and drew more heavily on the Mediterranean countries including Italy, Greece, Malta and Egypt. During this time, however, migrants from England continued to dominate numerically.

FEATURE ARTICLE – A Century of Population Change in Western Australia *continued*

MIGRATION *continued*

In the last thirty years of the century, patterns of migration changed as a result of the abolition of the White Australia Policy. In 1973, the *Immigration Restriction Act (1901)*, the *Pacific Islanders Labourers Act (1901)* and the *Naturalisation Act (1903)* were replaced by non-discriminatory immigration policies. As a result of these policy changes, migrants from a greater variety of countries, especially southern and south-east Asian countries, settled in Western Australia.

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN POPULATION BORN OVERSEAS, Top Six

Countries—1976

<i>Country of Birth</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Proportion of overseas-born</i>	<i>Proportion of total population</i>
England	143 537	47.0	12.8
Italy	29 145	9.5	2.6
Scotland	18 854	6.2	1.7
Netherlands	10 511	3.4	0.9
Yugoslavia	10 180	3.3	0.9
India	9 716	3.2	0.9
Total overseas-born	305 666	..	27.3

Towards the end of the twentieth century, people born in southern and south-east Asia increased significantly as a share of the migrant intake into Western Australia. By 1996, India and Malaysia were both represented in the top six source countries, accounting for 3% and 4% respectively of the overseas-born. While England remained a dominant source country, those born in England had decreased as a proportion of the overseas-born from 47% to 36% in the twenty years to 1996.

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN POPULATION BORN OVERSEAS, Top Six Countries—1996

Country of Birth	Number	Proportion of overseas-born	Proportion of total population
England (a)	170 596	35.9	10.0
New Zealand	38 917	8.2	2.3
Italy	25 113	5.3	1.5
Scotland	24 877	5.2	1.5
Malaysia	17 355	3.7	1.0
India	12 668	2.7	0.7
Total overseas-born	474 768	..	27.8

(a) Includes UK undefined

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- Hugo, G.J. 1986, *Australia's Changing Population: Trends and Implications*, Oxford University Press, Melbourne.
- Jain, S.K. 1994, *Trends in Mortality*, National Centre for Epidemiology and Population and the Australian Bureau of Statistics, Canberra.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The statistics used in this article are sourced from the ABS Ausstats release *Australian Historical Population Statistics*. For further information, contact Samantha Quach on (08) 9360 5380 or by e-mail: samantha.quach@abs.gov.au

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POPULATION STATISTICS, Western Australia: 1901 to 2000(a)

Year	Total Pop'n(b)	Annual Pop'n Growth(c)	Sex Ratio(d)	Net Interstate and Overseas Migration(c)	Crude Birth Rate (e)	Crude Death Rate(f)	Infant Mortality Rate(g)	Crude Marriage Rate(h)	Crude Divorce Rate(i)
	no.	%		no.					
1901	188 566	7.6	155.7	10 435	30.4	13.4	128.9	9.7	0.1
1902	205 693	9.5	153.5	14 963	30.4	13.8	142.0	9.9	—
1903	220 226	6.0	148.0	8 864	30.5	12.7	141.2	9.4	0.1
1904	235 365	6.5	145.0	10 301	30.7	12.0	113.0	8.9	0.1
1905	247 673	4.5	141.4	5 857	30.7	11.0	104.2	8.6	—
1906	255 173	2.0	138.2	319	30.7	12.1	110.0	8.9	0.1
1907	255 497	-0.2	135.1	-5 414	30.2	11.5	97.5	8.3	0.1
1908	258 291	2.0	133.5	255	30.1	11.2	84.7	7.8	0.1
1909	263 515	2.3	132.3	1 106	28.9	10.3	78.0	7.6	0.1
1910	271 162	4.2	132.9	6 312	28.0	10.1	78.2	7.8	0.1
1911	287 757	6.2	133.4	11 923	28.2	10.2	76.0	8.4	0.1
1912	301 966	4.0	132.0	6 344	28.9	11.1	82.1	8.4	0.1
1913	313 334	4.7	129.5	8 030	29.4	9.4	70.3	8.2	0.2
1914	323 206	0.7	125.1	-4 007	28.5	9.4	68.1	8.2	0.1
1915	321 440	-1.7	117.2	-11 451	28.1	9.3	66.5	8.0	0.1
1916	313 048	-3.1	107.9	-15 261	27.4	9.9	66.2	7.6	0.1
1917	306 297	0.0	105.5	-5 155	25.7	9.1	57.1	5.3	0.2
1918	308 232	1.1	106.4	-928	23.1	9.2	57.1	5.2	0.2
1919	319 636	5.7	114.5	14 330	21.7	11.2	61.1	6.9	0.4
1920	330 172	1.1	114.5	-1 298	24.7	10.3	66.0	8.9	0.4
1921	333 932	1.6	113.6	898	23.4	10.4	78.3	8.0	0.4
1922	341 462	2.7	114.5	4 032	23.8	9.3	55.6	7.2	0.3
1923	350 627	3.3	115.3	6 391	22.4	8.4	56.3	6.8	0.3
1924	363 998	3.2	115.8	6 427	22.9	9.1	49.9	7.1	0.2
1925	372 817	2.5	115.8	4 333	21.9	9.0	56.6	7.4	0.3
1926	381 110	2.0	115.9	2 755	21.8	8.9	49.3	7.5	0.3
1927	392 114	3.8	117.3	9 575	21.6	8.8	45.9	7.9	0.3
1928	407 905	3.7	118.7	9 660	21.4	9.1	48.1	8.1	0.4
1929	421 063	2.9	118.5	6 895	21.5	9.6	56.1	8.0	0.4
1930	429 112	1.2	117.2	-453	21.4	9.0	46.7	7.5	0.3
1931	432 183	0.5	115.5	-2 792	19.8	8.8	41.5	6.3	0.3
1932	435 111	0.6	114.6	-1 616	18.3	8.5	44.6	6.7	0.3
1933	438 852	1.0	114.0	238	17.9	8.6	36.8	7.7	0.3
1934	442 770	0.7	113.8	-638	17.6	9.2	40.9	8.3	0.4
1935	447 178	1.3	113.2	1 893	18.2	9.3	40.2	8.8	0.5
1936	452 494	1.0	112.9	328	18.7	9.4	42.2	9.4	0.5
1937	457 257	1.4	112.7	1 798	18.8	8.9	37.5	9.1	0.6
1938	463 989	1.3	112.4	1 235	19.7	9.0	33.8	9.0	0.6
1939	470 044	1.2	111.5	1 000	19.2	9.2	40.8	8.9	0.5
1940	473 254	0.4	110.4	-2 902	19.3	9.3	44.2	11.1	0.6
1941	474 791	-0.2	109.0	-5 769	21.3	10.6	35.3	10.7	0.7
1942	476 983	0.7	107.4	-349	20.8	10.2	36.9	11.4	0.8
1943	475 281	0.3	106.3	-3 528	22.0	9.6	32.6	9.5	1.0
1944	481 530	1.4	105.9	654	22.6	9.3	32.6	9.4	1.2
1945	487 692	1.1	105.5	-105	21.9	9.7	29.5	7.8	1.3
1946	492 510	1.4	105.6	-392	24.6	9.6	31.1	10.5	1.5
1947	502 480	2.4	105.9	3 670	25.6	9.4	30.9	10.5	1.6
1948	515 074	2.6	105.8	4 991	25.1	9.1	25.6	10.1	1.4
1949	532 191	4.3	106.2	13 464	25.4	9.0	26.4	9.3	1.1
1950	557 096	5.2	106.1	19 295	25.5	9.1	27.1	9.7	1.3
1951	580 343	3.1	106.5	8 184	25.5	9.1	28.7	9.3	1.2
1952	599 858	3.8	106.9	12 392	25.7	8.7	24.9	9.0	1.0
1953	620 547	3.1	106.9	8 018	25.5	8.2	23.8	8.1	0.9
1954	639 771	2.7	106.4	6 400	24.9	8.4	22.5	8.1	0.8
1955	657 115	3.1	105.9	8 658	25.3	8.2	22.4	7.8	0.7
1956	674 529	1.9	105.9	1 315	25.1	8.2	22.7	7.5	0.8
1957	687 605	2.1	105.1	2 339	24.6	7.7	21.1	7.1	0.8
1958	699 565	1.7	104.5	785	23.9	7.9	21.5	7.2	0.8
1959	712 070	1.6	103.9	-119	24.0	7.7	20.2	7.6	0.8

(a) For footnotes see end of table

FEATURE ARTICLE – A Century of Population Change in Western Australia *continued*

POPULATION STATISTICS, Western Australia: 1901 to 2000 *continued*

Year	Total Pop'n(b)	Annual Pop'n Growth(c)	Sex Ratio(d)	Net Interstate and Overseas Migration(c)	Crude Birth Rate (e)	Crude Death Rate(f)	Infant Mortality Rate(g)	Crude Marriage Rate(h)	Crude Divorce Rate(i)
	no.	%		no.					
1960	722 080	1.7	104.0	1 113	23.4	7.9	21.6	7.4	0.7
1961	746 750	3.3	103.9	4 661	23.2	7.8	19.7	7.0	0.6
1962	765 962	2.9	103.8	10 697	22.3	7.7	22.3	7.1	0.8
1963	788 344	2.8	103.9	10 268	21.9	7.7	20.4	7.3	0.7
1964	808 443	2.4	104.0	8 902	20.6	8.1	19.7	7.5	0.7
1965	825 525	2.5	104.0	10 161	19.6	7.8	21.7	7.8	0.7
1966	848 100	3.1	104.2	15 553	20.2	8.1	19.9	8.2	0.8
1967	879 179	3.8	104.5	21 651	20.5	7.7	17.4	8.4	0.8
1968	915 042	4.5	104.8	28 739	21.3	8.2	20.4	8.8	0.9
1969	954 846	4.1	105.1	25 416	21.8	7.7	21.8	9.4	0.9
1970	991 354	2.8	103.3	23 357	21.8	7.6	21.2	9.3	0.9
1971	1 053 834	6.6	104.7	18 412	23.5	7.4	19.2	9.1	1.0
1972	1 082 017	2.1	104.4	7 875	20.5	6.9	15.6	8.4	1.1
1973	1 101 041	2.0	104.2	8 910	18.6	7.1	19.4	8.3	1.3
1974	1 127 598	2.9	104.1	19 700	17.9	6.9	16.1	8.2	1.6
1975	1 154 948	1.9	103.8	9 410	17.6	6.9	13.3	7.8	2.0
1976	1 178 342	2.1	103.4	10 921	17.6	6.6	13.2	8.1	4.1
1977	1 204 366	2.1	103.2	11 392	17.2	6.5	12.2	8.4	3.3
1978	1 227 851	1.6	103.0	4 980	16.8	6.3	11.2	7.7	2.8
1979	1 246 611	1.7	102.5	6 847	16.5	6.4	12.1	7.4	2.7
1980	1 269 068	2.1	102.3	12 627	16.3	6.4	11.7	7.6	2.4
1981	1 300 056	2.9	102.2	19 931	16.8	6.1	8.9	7.8	2.7
1982	1 338 899	2.6	102.2	17 640	16.6	6.1	9.3	7.8	2.9
1983	1 369 050	1.9	102.1	8 126	16.9	6.1	7.8	7.7	2.8
1984	1 391 237	1.6	101.9	5 586	15.5	6.1	10.7	7.1	2.9
1985	1 418 564	2.4	101.8	16 304	16.3	6.2	9.0	7.3	2.8
1986	1 459 019	2.8	101.8	24 154	16.6	6.4	8.8	7.1	2.7
1987	1 496 248	2.4	101.7	22 841	15.6	5.9	8.4	6.8	2.7
1988	1 535 167	3.0	101.7	31 252	16.4	6.2	8.5	6.9	2.6
1989	1 578 434	2.4	101.5	22 941	15.9	6.0	7.8	6.8	2.6
1990	1 613 049	1.8	101.3	13 404	15.7	5.8	8.6	6.6	2.4
1991	1 636 067	1.4	101.1	7 969	15.5	5.8	7.2	6.5	2.7
1992	1 658 045	1.2	101.1	187	15.1	6.0	7.0	6.1	2.7
1993	1 677 669	1.3	101.2	306	14.9	6.1	5.9	6.2	2.8
1994	1 703 009	1.6	101.2	612	14.8	6.0	5.6	6.1	3.0
1995	1 733 787	1.9	101.1	561	14.5	6.0	5.1	6.0	2.9
1996	1 765 256	1.9	101.2	18 017	14.0	6.2	6.5	5.8	2.8
1997	1 797 870	1.7	101.2	16 053	13.8	6.0	5.3	5.8	2.8
1998	1 829 145	1.8	101.3	18 666	13.5	5.8	5.0	5.8	2.9
1999	1 857 586	1.4	101.4	12 206	13.4	5.9	4.7	5.5	2.8
2000	1 883 860	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.

(b) Estimated resident population at 30 June.

(c) As at 31 December.

(d) Sex ratio is the number of males per 100 females as at 31 December.

(e) The crude birth rate is the number of births registered during the calendar year, per 1,000 estimated resident population at 30 June of that year. For years 1901 to 1970 the crude birth rate was based on the number of births in a year per 1,000 of the mean population. For the years 1971 to 1993, the estimated resident mean population was used.

(f) The crude death rate is the number of deaths registered during the calendar year, per 1,000 estimated resident population at 30 June of that year. For years prior to 1994, the crude death rate is based on the mean estimated resident population for the calendar year.

(g) The number of deaths of children under one year of age in a calendar year, per 1,000 live births in the same calendar year.

(h) The crude marriage rate is the number of marriages registered during the calendar year, per 1,000 estimated resident population at 30 June. For years prior to 1994, the crude marriage rate was based on the mean resident population for the calendar year.

(i) The crude divorce rate is the number of decrees absolute granted during the calendar year, per 1,000 estimated resident population at 30 June. For years prior to 1994, the crude divorce rate was based on the mean resident population for the calendar year.