

The Laos-Born Community in Victoria – 2016 Census (ranked 75)

Demographic characteristics

At the 2016 Census, there were 2,224 Laos-born persons in Victoria (21.4% of Australia's total), ranked 75th among the overseas-born population in Victoria. The Laos-born increased by 3.0% (64) from 2,160 persons in 2011. They are distributed throughout Metropolitan Melbourne, with concentrations in the LGAs of Brimbank (15.5%), Hume (9.7%), Casey (8.0%), Greater Dandenong (7.5%) and Knox (6.5%).

The Laos-born reflected a maturing age profile: 5.9% were aged 25 years and below; 29.2% were aged 26-44 years; 55.9% were aged 45-64 years; and 14.9% were aged 65 years and over. The median age was 50 years, compared to 37 years for total Victoria. The gender ratio was 83 males to 100 females, compared to 96 males to 100 females for total Victoria.

There were 3,275 persons identified with Lao ancestry. Most of them were born in Laos (48.7%) and Australia (40.3%). Three-quarters (76.9%) of the Laos-born in Victoria had arrived in Australia prior to 1996; 4.1% arrived in 1996-2000; 3.1% arrived in 2001-2005; 4.9% arrived in 2006-2010; and 7.2% arrived in 2011-2016.

The Laos-born speak Lao (62.5%), Hmong (7.4%), Mandarin (5.5%), Vietnamese (4.1%) and Thai (1.9%); 12.1% speak English only. Of those who speak a language other than English, 29.8% speak English not well/not at all. The Laos-born population follow mainly Buddhism (70.3%), Catholic (3.6%) and Nature Religions (2.8%); 13.4% have no religion. Most (86.6%) of the Laos-born (86.6%) have Australian citizenship, compared to 58.3% for the total overseas-born population in Victoria.

(See p.3 on economic characteristics).

Laos-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)	2,087	20.1	2,052	20.7	1,941	20.7	35	1.7	111	5.7
Rest of Victoria ^(b)	138	1.3	106	1.1	106	1.1	32	30.2	-	-
Total Victoria	2,224	21.4	2,160	21.7	2,048	21.8	64	3.0	112	5.5
Total Australia	10,402	100.0	9,932	100.0	9,375	100.0	470	4.7	557	5.9

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

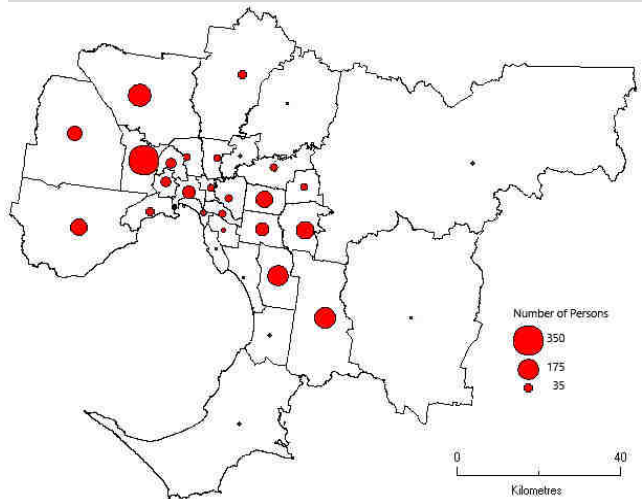
^(b) Includes "No Usual Address, Victoria" and "Offshore Areas and Migratory, Victoria".

Distribution of Laos-born, Top 5 LGAs: 2016 Census

Local Government Area (LGA)	2016 Census		2011 Census		Rank in 2011
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
Brimbank (C)	345	15.5	338	15.6	1
Hume (C)	216	9.7	200	9.3	2
Casey (C)	179	8.0	175	8.1	4
Gter Dandenong (C)	166	7.5	179	8.3	3
Knox (C)	135	6.1	140	6.5	6
Rest of Melbourne	1,018	45.8	1,008	46.7	-
Rest of Reg Vic ^(a)	151	6.8	116	5.4	-
Total Victoria	2,224	100.0	2,160	100.0	-

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

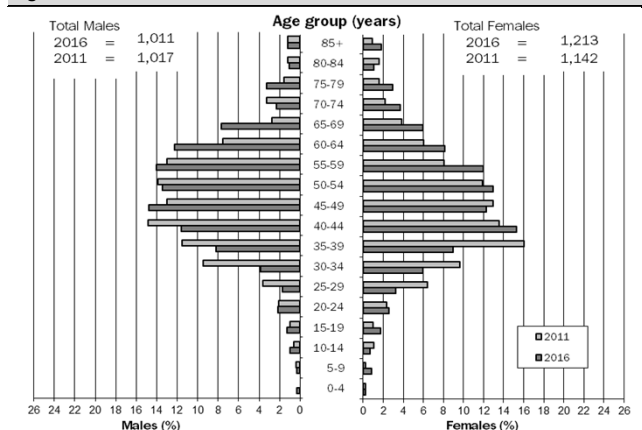
Distribution of Laos-born in Metro Melbourne, 2016



Age Distribution of Laos-born: 2016, 2011 Census

Age group (years)	2016 Census		2011 Census		2011-16 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
0-4	7	0.3	4	0.2	75.0
5-11	20	0.9	17	0.8	17.6
12-18	28	1.3	25	1.2	12.0
19-25	76	3.4	68	3.1	11.8
26-44	649	29.2	920	42.6	-29.5
45-54	593	26.7	560	25.9	5.9
55-64	514	23.1	372	17.2	38.2
65-74	210	9.4	131	6.1	60.3
75+	123	5.5	78	3.6	57.7
Total Victoria	2,224	100.0	2,160	100.0	3.0
<i>Median Age</i>	50		46		
<i>Sex Ratio</i>	83		89		<i>89 males per 100 females</i>

Age and Gender Distribution of Laos-born, Victoria, 2016



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

Country of birth	2016		2011		2011-16 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
Laos	1,596	48.7	1,507	56.1	5.9
Thailand	160	4.9	107	4.0	49.5
New Zealand	42	1.3	29	1.1	44.8
Greece	18	0.5	-	-	-
France	17	0.5	8	0.3	112.5
Australia	1,320	40.3	930	34.6	41.9
Other ^(a)	124	3.8	107	4.0	15.9
Total responses^(b)	3,275	100.0	2,688	100.0	21.8

^(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 Laos-born persons.

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

Language other than English	2016		2011		2011-16 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
Lao	1,390	62.5	1,395	64.6	-0.4
Hmong	165	7.4	189	8.8	-12.7
Mandarin	123	5.5	131	6.1	-6.1
Vietnamese	92	4.1	96	4.4	-4.2
Thai	43	1.9	42	1.9	2.4
Other languages ^(a)	123	5.5	104	4.8	18.3
English only	270	12.1	191	8.8	41.4
Not stated	12	0.5	12	0.6	-
Total Victoria	2,224	100.0	2,160	100.0	3.0

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

Top 5 Religious affiliation, Laos-born: 2016, 2011

Religious affiliation ^(a)	2016		2011		2011-16 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
Buddhism	1,563	70.3	1,600	74.1	-2.3
Catholic	80	3.6	91	4.2	-12.1
Nature Religions	63	2.8	28	1.3	125.0
Baptist	20	0.9	27	1.3	-25.9
Christian, nfd	16	0.7	10	0.5	60.0
Other religions	66	3.0	84	3.9	-21.4
No religion ^(b)	298	13.4	249	11.5	19.7
Not stated	103	4.6	71	3.3	45.1
Total Victoria	2,224	100.0	2,160	100.0	3.0

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

^(b) No Religion, so described.

Year of Arrival of Laos-born: 2016

Year of arrival ^(a)	Laos-born		Total OSB, Vic ^(c)	
	Persons	%	Persons	%
Before 1996	1,710	76.9	716,865	42.7
1996 - 2000	92	4.1	104,975	6.2
2001 - 2005	70	3.1	149,043	8.9
2006 - 2010	108	4.9	269,729	16.1
2011 - 2016 ^(b)	160	7.2	381,130	22.7
Not stated	84	3.8	58,517	3.5
Total Victoria	2,224	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 Laos-born: 2016, 2011

Proficiency in English	2016		2011		2011-16 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
Speaks English only	270	12.1	191	8.8	41.4
<i>Speaks other languages and speaks English</i>					
Very well	528	23.7	610	28.2	-13.4
Well	737	33.1	735	34.0	0.3
Not well	586	26.3	520	24.1	12.7
Not at all	78	3.5	91	4.2	-14.3
Not stated ^(a)	23	1.0	18	0.8	27.8
Total Victoria	2,224	100.0	2,160	100.0	3.0

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

Laos-born with Australian Citizenship by Age: 2016, 2011

Age group (years)	2016		2011		2011-16 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
0-4	5	0.3	3	0.2	66.7
5-11	10	0.5	3	0.2	233.3
12-18	8	0.4	14	0.7	-42.9
19-25	18	0.9	18	0.9	-
26-44	506	26.3	786	40.9	-35.6
45-64	1,051	54.6	900	46.8	16.8
65-74	204	10.6	127	6.6	60.6
75+	119	6.2	81	4.2	46.9
Total	1,925	100.0	1,924	100.0	0.1

% of Laos-born with Australian citizenship, 2016: 86.6%

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

Economic characteristics

The education levels of the Laos-born are lower than for total Victoria: 15.6% have a bachelor degree or higher and 15.8% have an advanced diploma and diploma and a certificate, compared to 24.4% and 23.6% for Victoria. Half (49.4%) have school education only and 14.0% have no educational attainment, compared to 38.7% and 1.0% for Victoria.

The labour force participation rate of the Laos-born at 59.4% is similar to total Victoria at 60.5%. Their unemployment rate at 7.9% is higher than total Victoria at 6.6%.

The occupational patterns of the Laos-born are different from those for total Victoria. Less of the Laos-born work as managers (8.2%), professionals (11.0%) and community and personal services workers (6.9%), compared to 13.5%, 23.3% and 10.6% for Victoria. More of them work as machinery operators and drivers (19.3%) and labourers (23.4%) than Victoria (5.8% and 9.0%).

The industry of employment patterns of the Laos-born are different from total Victoria. More of them are employed in manufacturing (28.6%) and transport, postal and warehousing (8.2%), compared to 7.8% and 4.8% for Victoria. Less of them are employed in construction (4.5%), professional, scientific, technical and administration (7.8%), education and training (2.6%) and healthcare and social assistance (7.3%), compared to Victoria (8.3%, 11.4%, 8.6% and 12.5%).

The weekly personal income distribution pattern for the Laos-born is different from total Victoria: 12.2% receive nil income and 24.19% receive \$1-\$399, compared to 9.7% and 20.1% for Victoria; 14.3% receive \$1,250 or more, compared with 21.1% for Victoria.

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

Highest level of educational attainment ^(a)	Laos-born						Total Victoria					
	2016		2011		Change 2011-2016		2016		2011		Change 2011-2016	
	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	% change	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	% change
Postgraduate Degree	41	1.9	37	1.7	4	10.8	260,039	5.4	170,382	3.9	89,657	52.6
Grad Dip & Grad Cert	19	0.9	10	0.5	9	90.0	119,226	2.5	95,352	2.2	23,874	25.0
Bachelor Degree	281	12.8	246	11.5	35	14.2	798,270	16.5	641,219	14.7	157,051	24.5
Advanced Dip & Diploma	187	8.5	158	7.4	29	18.4	447,023	9.2	364,758	8.4	82,265	22.6
Certificate	161	7.3	127	5.9	34	26.8	698,036	14.4	614,689	14.1	83,347	13.6
School Education only ^(b)	1,083	49.4	1,054	49.4	29	2.8	1,877,183	38.7	1,876,620	43.1	563	0.0
No Educ Attainment ^(c)	307	14.0	299	14.0	8	2.7	48,920	1.0	41,809	1.0	7,111	17.0
Not stated etc ^(d)	111	5.1	201	9.4	-90	-44.8	597,010	12.3	550,419	12.6	46,591	8.5
Victoria	2,191	100.0	2,135	100.0	56	2.6	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, Laos-born and Total Victoria: 2016, 2011

Labour force participation ^(a)	Laos-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>	1,303	58.6	1,391	64.4	-88	-6.3	2,929,590	49.4	2,675,478	50.0	254,112	9.5
Employed	1,200	54.0	1,308	60.6	-108	-8.3	2,736,125	46.2	2,530,635	47.3	205,490	8.1
Unemployed	103	4.6	83	3.8	20	24.1	193,465	3.3	144,843	2.7	48,622	33.6
<i>Not in the labour force</i>	876	39.4	728	33.7	148	20.3	1,610,130	27.2	1,451,593	27.1	158,537	10.9
Not stated	15	0.7	13	0.6	2	15.4	305,978	5.2	228,176	4.3	77,802	34.1
Not applicable ^(b)	30	1.3	27	1.3	3	11.1	1,080,919	18.2	998,793	18.7	82,126	8.2
Victoria	2,224	100.0	2,160	100.0	64	3.0	5,926,624	100.0	5,354,039	100.0	572,585	10.7
<i>Participation rate</i> ^(c)	59.4%		65.2%				60.5%		61.4%			
<i>Unemployment rate</i> ^(d)	7.9%		6.0%				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, Laos-born and Total Victoria: 2016, 2011

Occupation ^(a)	Laos-born						Total Victoria					
	2016		2011		Change 2011-2016		2016		2011		Change 2011-2016	
	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%
Managers	98	8.2	112	8.6	-14	-12.5	369,921	13.5	332,931	13.2	36,990	11.1
Professionals	132	11.0	135	10.3	-3	-2.2	636,220	23.3	564,779	22.3	71,441	12.6
Technicians and trades workers	150	12.5	158	12.1	-8	-5.1	358,749	13.1	350,757	13.9	7,992	2.3
Community&personal serv. wkr	83	6.9	75	5.7	8	10.7	289,348	10.6	234,380	9.3	54,968	23.5
Clerical & administrative workers	139	11.6	145	11.1	-6	-4.1	363,216	13.3	364,497	14.4	-1,281	-0.4
Sales workers	54	4.5	61	4.7	-7	-11.5	265,142	9.7	245,335	9.7	19,807	8.1
Machinery operators & drivers	232	19.3	261	20.0	-29	-11.1	159,193	5.8	154,542	6.1	4,651	3.0
Labourers	281	23.4	325	24.8	-44	-13.5	247,428	9.0	227,184	9.0	20,244	8.9
Not stated ^(b)	30	2.5	31	2.4	-1	-3.2	46,924	1.7	56,224	2.2	-9,300	-16.5
Victoria	1,200	100.0	1,308	100.0	-108	-8.3	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, Laos-born and Total Victoria: 2016, 2011

Industry of employment ^(a)	Laos-born						Total Victoria					
	2016		2011		Change 2011-2016		2016		2011		Change 2011-2016	
	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%
Agri, forestry, fishing & mining	28	2.3	16	1.2	12	75.0	70,052	2.6	66,176	2.6	3,876	5.9
Manufacturing	343	28.6	503	38.5	-160	-31.8	212,723	7.8	271,051	10.7	-58,328	-21.5
Electr, gas, water & waste	8	0.7	10	0.8	-2	-20.0	30,808	1.1	27,630	1.1	3,178	11.5
Construction	54	4.5	48	3.7	6	12.5	228,149	8.3	210,972	8.3	17,177	8.1
Wholesale & retail trade	142	11.8	144	11.0	-2	-1.4	367,953	13.4	387,813	15.3	-19,860	-5.1
Accommod & Food services	89	7.4	95	7.3	-6	-6.3	180,825	6.6	153,898	6.1	26,927	17.5
Transp, postal & warehousing	98	8.2	96	7.3	2	2.1	130,069	4.8	118,214	4.7	11,855	10.0
Information, Media & Telecomm	18	1.5	19	1.5	-1	-5.3	52,200	1.9	50,091	2.0	2,109	4.2
Finance & Insurance	54	4.5	57	4.4	-3	-5.3	106,669	3.9	104,701	4.1	1,968	1.9
Rental, Hiring & Real Estate	6	0.5	12	0.9	-6	-50.0	43,013	1.6	35,046	1.4	7,967	22.7
Prof, Scientific, Tech & Admin	94	7.8	77	5.9	17	22.1	310,711	11.4	279,422	11.0	31,289	11.2
Public Admin & Safety	32	2.7	37	2.8	-5	-13.5	144,321	5.3	134,949	5.3	9,372	6.9
Education & Training	31	2.6	29	2.2	2	6.9	236,276	8.6	202,317	8.0	33,959	16.8
Health Care & Soc Assistance	87	7.3	76	5.8	11	14.5	341,999	12.5	292,417	11.6	49,582	17.0
Arts, Recreation & Other serv	35	2.9	43	3.3	-8	-18.6	151,019	5.5	134,750	5.3	16,269	12.1
Inadeq Described/Not Stated	90	7.5	42	3.2	48	114.3	129,326	4.7	61,173	2.4	68,153	111.4
Victoria	1,200	100.0	1,308	100.0	-108	-8.3	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), Laos-born and Total Victoria: 2016, 2011

Total personal income, weekly ^(a)	Laos-born						Total Victoria					
	2016		2011		Change 2011-2016		2016		2011		Change 2011-2016	
	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%
Negative income	17	0.8	13	0.6	4	30.8	27,122	0.6	26,342	0.6	780	3.0
Nil income	267	12.2	220	10.3	47	21.4	467,934	9.7	351,430	8.1	116,504	33.2
\$1-399	528	24.1	591	27.7	-63	-10.7	975,345	20.1	1,224,693	28.1	-249,348	-20.4
\$400-\$799	580	26.5	631	29.6	-51	-8.1	1,118,244	23.1	964,124	22.1	154,120	16.0
\$800-\$1,249	433	19.8	408	19.1	25	6.1	811,256	16.7	715,662	16.4	95,594	13.4
\$1,250-\$1,999	242	11.0	157	7.4	85	54.1	658,020	13.6	491,972	11.3	166,048	33.8
\$2,000 or more	73	3.3	48	2.2	25	52.1	364,675	7.5	246,379	5.7	118,296	48.0
Not stated	47	2.1	60	2.8	-13	-21.7	423,108	8.7	334,649	7.7	88,459	26.4
Victoria	2,191	100.0	2,135	100.0	56	2.6	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*.