

# The Somalia-Born Community in Victoria – 2016 Census (ranked 64)

## Demographic characteristics

At the 2016 Census, there were 3,904 Somalia-born persons in Victoria (50.9% of Australia’s total), ranked 64<sup>th</sup> among the overseas-born communities in Victoria. The Somalia-born increased by 27.5% (843) from 3,061 persons in 2011. They are distributed throughout Metropolitan Melbourne, with concentrations in the LGAs of Melbourne (13.9%), Banyule (12.6%), Hume (10.8%), Wyndham (10.0%) and Darebin (8.2%).

The Somalia-born reflected an adult to balanced age profile: 20.7% were aged 25 years and under; 50.3% were aged 26-44; 24.8% were aged 45-64; and 4.3% were aged 65 years and over. The median age was 36 years, compared to 37 years for total Victoria. The gender ratio was 81 males to 100 females, compared to 96 males to 100 females for total Victoria.

There were 8,417 persons identified with Somali ancestry. Most of them were born in Somalia (40.8%), Australia (40.1%), New Zealand (4.7%), Kenya (4.3%) and Ethiopia (2.2%). One-fifth (20.8%) of the Somalia-born in Victoria had arrived in Australia prior to 1996; 25.8% arrived in 1996-2000; 14.4% arrived in 2001-2005; 14.7% arrived in 2006-2010; and 19.2% arrived in 2011-2016.

Most of the Somalia-born speak Somali (89.2%) and Arabic (2.6%); 3.8% speak English only. Of those who speak a language other than English, 16.7% speak English not well/not at all. Most (93.8%) of the Somalia-born are Muslim; 1.1% have no religion. Seventy per cent (70.0%) of Somalia-born have Australian citizenship, compared to 58.3% for overseas-born in Victoria.

(See p.3 on economic characteristics).

### Somalia-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 <sup>(a)</sup>	3,836	50.0	3,015	53.0	2,594	60.1	821	27.2	421	16.2
Rest of Victoria <sup>(b)</sup>	66	0.9	46	0.8	30	0.7	20	43.5	16	53.3
<b>Total Victoria</b>	<b>3,904</b>	<b>50.9</b>	<b>3,061</b>	<b>53.8</b>	<b>2,623</b>	<b>60.8</b>	<b>843</b>	<b>27.5</b>	<b>438</b>	<b>16.7</b>
<b>Total Australia</b>	<b>7,668</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>5,686</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>4,314</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,982</b>	<b>34.9</b>	<b>1,372</b>	<b>31.8</b>

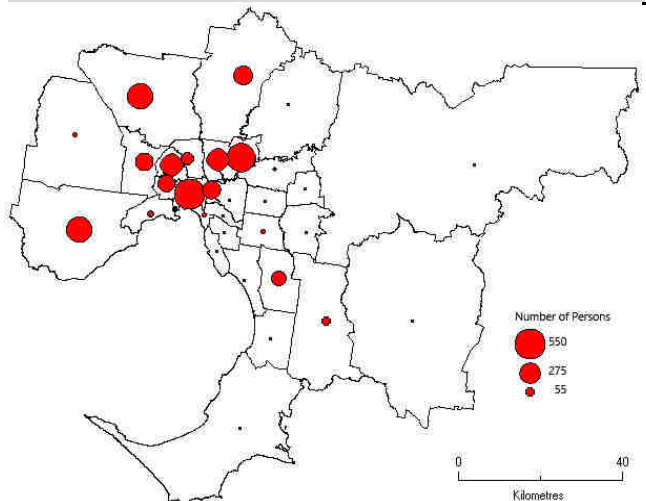
<sup>(a)</sup> Metro Melbourne is equivalent to ABS's Greater Capital Statistical Area.  
<sup>(b)</sup> Includes "No Usual Address, Victoria" and "Offshore Areas and Migratory, Victoria".

### Distribution of Somalia-born, Top 5 LGAs: 2016 Census

Local Government Area (LGA)	2016 Census		2011 Census		Rank in 2011
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
Melbourne (C)	543	13.9	492	16.1	2
Banyule (C)	491	12.6	495	16.2	1
Hume (C)	421	10.8	203	6.6	6
Wyndham (C)	389	10.0	174	5.7	7
Darebin (C)	321	8.2	276	9.0	4
Rest of Melbourne	1,663	42.6	1,372	44.8	-
Rest of Reg Vic <sup>(a)</sup>	63	1.6	36	1.2	-
<b>Total Victoria</b>	<b>3,904</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>3,061</b>	<b>100.0</b>	-

<sup>(a)</sup> Includes "Unincorporated Vic" and "No Usual Address Vic".

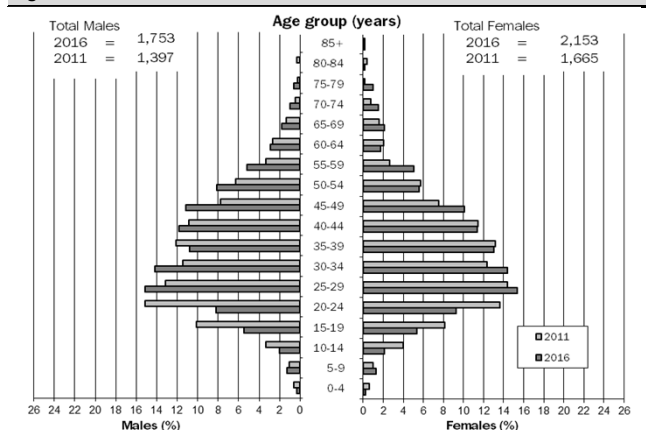
### Distribution of Somalia-born in Metro Melbourne, 2016



### Age Distribution of Somalia-born: 2016, 2011 Census

Age group (years)	2016 Census		2011 Census		2011-16 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
0-4	18	0.5	23	0.8	-21.7
5-11	71	1.8	64	2.1	10.9
12-18	195	5.0	282	9.2	-30.9
19-25	522	13.4	600	19.6	-13.0
26-44	1,962	50.3	1,435	46.9	36.7
45-54	674	17.3	411	13.4	64.0
55-64	291	7.5	159	5.2	83.0
65-74	126	3.2	69	2.3	82.6
75+	44	1.1	18	0.6	144.4
<b>Total Victoria</b>	<b>3,904</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>3,061</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>27.5</b>
<i>Median Age</i>	<i>36</i>		<i>32</i>		
<i>Sex Ratio</i>	<i>81</i>		<i>84</i>		<i>males per 100 females</i>

### Age and Gender Distribution of Somalia-born, Victoria, 2016



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

Country of birth	2016		2011		2011-16 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
Somalia	3,431	40.8	2,577	46.5	33.1
New Zealand	392	4.7	172	3.1	127.9
Kenya	364	4.3	208	3.8	75.0
Ethiopia	187	2.2	118	2.1	58.5
USA	41	0.5	9	0.2	355.6
Australia	3,379	40.1	2,004	36.1	68.6
Other <sup>(a)</sup>	603	7.2	457	8.2	31.9
<b>Total responses<sup>(b)</sup></b>	<b>8,417</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>5,545</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>51.8</b>

<sup>(a)</sup> Includes all other countries, and birthplace not stated.

<sup>(b)</sup> 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 Somalia-born persons.

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

Language other than English	2016		2011		2011-16 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
Somali	3,481	89.2	2,699	88.2	29.0
Arabic	103	2.6	108	3.5	-4.6
Italian	16	0.4	30	1.0	-46.7
Mandarin	12	0.3	-	-	-
Oromo	11	0.3	7	0.2	57.1
Other languages <sup>(a)</sup>	31	0.8	33	1.1	-6.1
English only	148	3.8	118	3.9	25.4
Not stated	92	2.4	66	2.2	39.4
<b>Total Victoria</b>	<b>3,904</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>3,061</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>27.5</b>

<sup>(a)</sup> Includes "Inadequately described" and "Non-verbal, so described".

**Top 5 Religious affiliation, Somalia-born: 2016, 2011**

Religious affiliation <sup>(a)</sup>	2016		2011		2011-16 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
Islam	3,660	93.8	2,936	95.9	24.7
Other Spiritual Beliefs	4	0.1	-	-	-
Other religions	9	0.2	9	0.3	-
No religion <sup>(b)</sup>	41	1.1	18	0.6	127.8
Not stated	173	4.4	98	3.2	76.5
<b>Total Victoria</b>	<b>3,904</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>3,061</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>27.5</b>

<sup>(a)</sup> Religion based on 3 digit level of classification.

<sup>(b)</sup> No Religion, so described.

**Year of Arrival of Somalia-born: 2016**

Year of arrival <sup>(a)</sup>	Somalia-born		Total OSB, Vic <sup>(c)</sup>	
	Persons	%	Persons	%
Before 1996	813	20.8	716,865	42.7
1996 - 2000	1,007	25.8	104,975	6.2
2001 - 2005	563	14.4	149,043	8.9
2006 - 2010	572	14.7	269,729	16.1
2011 - 2016 <sup>(b)</sup>	749	19.2	381,130	22.7
Not stated	186	4.8	58,517	3.5
<b>Total Victoria</b>	<b>3,904</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,680,256</b>	<b>100.0</b>

<sup>(a)</sup> Records the year of arrival in Australia for people born overseas

who intend staying in Australia for at least one year.

<sup>(b)</sup> Arrivals up to 9 Aug 2016.

<sup>(c)</sup> OSB stands for Overseas-born.

**Proficiency in English of Somalia-born: 2016, 2011**

Proficiency in English	2016		2011		2011-16 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
Speaks English only	148	3.8	118	3.9	25.4
<i>Speaks other languages and speaks English</i>					
Very well	1,723	44.1	1,459	47.7	18.1
Well	1,275	32.7	936	30.6	36.2
Not well	589	15.1	405	13.2	45.4
Not at all	61	1.6	69	2.3	-11.6
Not stated <sup>(a)</sup>	101	2.6	73	2.4	38.4
<b>Total Victoria</b>	<b>3,904</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>3,061</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>27.5</b>

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

**Somalia-born with Australian Citizenship by Age: 2016, 2011**

Age group (years)	2016		2011		2011-16 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
0-4	4	0.1	11	0.5	-63.6
5-11	13	0.5	27	1.1	-51.9
12-18	103	3.8	157	6.6	-34.4
19-25	306	11.2	461	19.5	-33.6
26-44	1,379	50.5	1,134	47.9	21.6
45-64	796	29.1	492	20.8	61.8
65-74	97	3.5	58	2.5	67.2
75+	37	1.4	19	0.8	94.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,733</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2,365</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>15.6</b>

% of Somalia-born with Australian citizenship, 2016: 70.0%

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

## Economic characteristics

The education levels of the Somalia-born are lower than those for total Victoria. Less of them (2.5%) have a postgraduate degree and a bachelor degree (10.9%), compared to 16.5% and 1.0% for Victoria. More of the Somalia-born (14.5%) have an advanced diploma or diploma or no educational attainment (8.7%), compared to 9.2% and 1.0% for Victoria.

The labour force participation rate of the Somalia-born at 55.8% is lower than that of total Victoria at 60.5%. Their unemployment rate at 24.58% is significantly higher than for total Victoria at 6.6%.

The occupational patterns of the Somalia-born are different from those for total Victoria. The Somalia-born are under-represented in most occupations, with some exceptions: 31.2% are community & personal service workers and 22.6% are machinery operators & drivers, compared to 10.6% and 5.8% for Victoria.

The industry of employment patterns of the Somalia-born are also different to those for total Victoria. The Somalia-born are again under-represented in most industries, with some exceptions: 18.9% are employed in transport, postal & warehousing and 38.0% are employed in health care & social assistance, compared to 4.8% and 12.5% for Victoria.

The weekly personal income distribution pattern for the Somalia-born is lower than for total Victoria. More of the Somalia-born receive \$1-\$399 (35.0%) and \$400-\$799 (26.2%), compared to 20.1% and 23.1% for Victoria. Less of them receive \$800-\$1,249 (12.7%), \$1,250-\$1,999 (5.3%) and \$2,000 or more (1.6%), compared to 16.7, 13.6% and 7.5% for Victoria.

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

Highest level of educational attainment <sup>(a)</sup>	Somalia-born						Total Victoria					
	2016		2011		Change 2011-2016		2016		2011		Change 2011-2016	
	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	% change	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	% change
Postgraduate Degree	93	2.5	59	2.0	34	57.6	260,039	5.4	170,382	3.9	89,657	52.6
Grad Dip & Grad Cert	54	1.4	16	0.6	38	237.5	119,226	2.5	95,352	2.2	23,874	25.0
Bachelor Degree	409	10.9	283	9.8	126	44.5	798,270	16.5	641,219	14.7	157,051	24.5
Advanced Dip & Diploma	545	14.5	267	9.2	278	104.1	447,023	9.2	364,758	8.4	82,265	22.6
Certificate	507	13.5	320	11.1	187	58.4	698,036	14.4	614,689	14.1	83,347	13.6
School Education only <sup>(b)</sup>	1,355	36.0	1,273	44.0	82	6.4	1,877,183	38.7	1,876,620	43.1	563	0.0
No Educ Attainment <sup>(c)</sup>	327	8.7	243	8.4	84	34.6	48,920	1.0	41,809	1.0	7,111	17.0
Not stated etc <sup>(d)</sup>	477	12.7	434	15.0	43	9.9	597,010	12.3	550,419	12.6	46,591	8.5
<b>Victoria</b>	<b>3,764</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2,890</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>874</b>	<b>30.2</b>	<b>4,845,710</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>4,355,243</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>490,467</b>	<b>11.3</b>

<sup>(a)</sup>This variable is applicable to persons aged 15 years and over.

<sup>(b)</sup>Includes persons who completed school to between Year 8 or below, and Year 12 level.

<sup>(c)</sup>Includes persons whose qualification is out of scope of this variable.

<sup>(d)</sup>Includes "Inadequately described".

### Labour force participation, Somalia-born and Total Victoria: 2016, 2011

Labour force participation <sup>(a)</sup>	Somalia-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>	2,100	53.8	1,517	49.6	583	38.4	2,929,590	49.4	2,675,478	50.0	254,112	9.5
Employed	1,586	40.6	1,219	39.8	367	30.1	2,736,125	46.2	2,530,635	47.3	205,490	8.1
Unemployed	514	13.2	298	9.7	216	72.5	193,465	3.3	144,843	2.7	48,622	33.6
<i>Not in the labour force</i>	1,568	40.2	1,226	40.1	342	27.9	1,610,130	27.2	1,451,593	27.1	158,537	10.9
<i>Not stated</i>	101	2.6	146	4.8	-45	-30.8	305,978	5.2	228,176	4.3	77,802	34.1
<i>Not applicable</i> <sup>(b)</sup>	140	3.6	168	5.5	-28	-16.7	1,080,919	18.2	998,793	18.7	82,126	8.2
<b>Victoria</b>	<b>3,904</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>3,061</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>843</b>	<b>27.5</b>	<b>5,926,624</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>5,354,039</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>572,585</b>	<b>10.7</b>
<i>Participation rate</i> <sup>(c)</sup>	55.8%		52.4%				60.5%		61.4%			
<i>Unemployment rate</i> <sup>(d)</sup>	24.5%		19.6%				6.6%		5.4%			

<sup>(a)</sup>This variable is applicable to persons 15 years and over.

<sup>(b)</sup>Persons aged under 15 years.

<sup>(c)</sup>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.

<sup>(d)</sup>The unemployment rate represents the number of unemployed persons expressed as a % of the labour force.

**Occupation, Somalia-born and Total Victoria: 2016, 2011**

Occupation <sup>(a)</sup>	Somalia-born						Total Victoria					
	2016		2011		Change 2011-2016		2016		2011		Change 2011-2016	
	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%
Managers	114	7.2	55	4.5	59	107.3	369,921	13.5	332,931	13.2	36,990	11.1
Professionals	191	12.0	126	10.3	65	51.6	636,220	23.3	564,779	22.3	71,441	12.6
Technicians and trades workers	52	3.3	53	4.3	-1	-1.9	358,749	13.1	350,757	13.9	7,992	2.3
Community&personal serv. wkr	495	31.2	464	38.1	31	6.7	289,348	10.6	234,380	9.3	54,968	23.5
Clerical & administrative workers	138	8.7	79	6.5	59	74.7	363,216	13.3	364,497	14.4	-1,281	-0.4
Sales workers	36	2.3	39	3.2	-3	-7.7	265,142	9.7	245,335	9.7	19,807	8.1
Machinery operators & drivers	359	22.6	254	20.8	105	41.3	159,193	5.8	154,542	6.1	4,651	3.0
Labourers	126	7.9	79	6.5	47	59.5	247,428	9.0	227,184	9.0	20,244	8.9
Not stated <sup>(b)</sup>	67	4.2	64	5.3	3	4.7	46,924	1.7	56,224	2.2	-9,300	-16.5
<b>Victoria</b>	<b>1,586</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,219</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>367</b>	<b>30.1</b>	<b>2,736,125</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2,530,635</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>205,490</b>	<b>8.1</b>

<sup>(a)</sup>This variable is applicable to employed persons aged 15 years and over.

<sup>(b)</sup>Includes "Inadequately described".

**Industry of Employment, Somalia-born and Total Victoria: 2016, 2011**

Industry of employment <sup>(a)</sup>	Somalia-born						Total Victoria					
	2016		2011		Change 2011-2016		2016		2011		Change 2011-2016	
	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%
Agri, forestry, fishing & mining	13	0.8	7	0.6	6	85.7	70,052	2.6	66,176	2.6	3,876	5.9
Manufacturing	89	5.6	75	6.2	14	18.7	212,723	7.8	271,051	10.7	-58,328	-21.5
Electr, gas, water & waste	4	0.3	3	0.2	1	33.3	30,808	1.1	27,630	1.1	3,178	11.5
Construction	11	0.7	19	1.6	-8	-42.1	228,149	8.3	210,972	8.3	17,177	8.1
Wholesale & retail trade	75	4.7	82	6.7	-7	-8.5	367,953	13.4	387,813	15.3	-19,860	-5.1
Accommod & Food services	21	1.3	23	1.9	-2	-8.7	180,825	6.6	153,898	6.1	26,927	17.5
Transp, postal & warehousing	299	18.9	211	17.3	88	41.7	130,069	4.8	118,214	4.7	11,855	10.0
Information, Media & Telecomm	15	0.9	10	0.8	5	50.0	52,200	1.9	50,091	2.0	2,109	4.2
Finance & Insurance	46	2.9	30	2.5	16	53.3	106,669	3.9	104,701	4.1	1,968	1.9
Rental, Hiring & Real Estate	3	0.2	-	-	3	-	43,013	1.6	35,046	1.4	7,967	22.7
Prof, Scientific, Tech & Admin	84	5.3	51	4.2	33	64.7	310,711	11.4	279,422	11.0	31,289	11.2
Public Admin & Safety	63	4.0	40	3.3	23	57.5	144,321	5.3	134,949	5.3	9,372	6.9
Education & Training	69	4.4	33	2.7	36	109.1	236,276	8.6	202,317	8.0	33,959	16.8
Health Care & Soc Assistance	603	38.0	487	40.0	116	23.8	341,999	12.5	292,417	11.6	49,582	17.0
Arts, Recreation & Other serv	27	1.7	33	2.7	-6	-18.2	151,019	5.5	134,750	5.3	16,269	12.1
Inadeq Described/Not Stated	169	10.7	118	9.7	51	43.2	129,326	4.7	61,173	2.4	68,153	111.4
<b>Victoria</b>	<b>1,586</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,219</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>367</b>	<b>30.1</b>	<b>2,736,125</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2,530,635</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>205,490</b>	<b>8.1</b>

<sup>(a)</sup>This variable is applicable to employed persons aged 15 and over.

**Total Personal Income (Weekly), Somalia-born and Total Victoria: 2016, 2011**

Total personal income, weekly <sup>(a)</sup>	Somalia-born						Total Victoria					
	2016		2011		Change 2011-2016		2016		2011		Change 2011-2016	
	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%
Negative income	74	2.0	21	0.7	53	252.4	27,122	0.6	26,342	0.6	780	3.0
Nil income	401	10.7	258	8.9	143	55.4	467,934	9.7	351,430	8.1	116,504	33.2
\$1-399	1,318	35.0	1,351	46.7	-33	-2.4	975,345	20.1	1,224,693	28.1	-249,348	-20.4
\$400-\$799	985	26.2	638	22.1	347	54.4	1,118,244	23.1	964,124	22.1	154,120	16.0
\$800-\$1,249	479	12.7	223	7.7	256	114.8	811,256	16.7	715,662	16.4	95,594	13.4
\$1,250-\$1,999	201	5.3	78	2.7	123	157.7	658,020	13.6	491,972	11.3	166,048	33.8
\$2,000 or more	59	1.6	20	0.7	39	195.0	364,675	7.5	246,379	5.7	118,296	48.0
Not stated	246	6.5	302	10.4	-56	-18.5	423,108	8.7	334,649	7.7	88,459	26.4
<b>Victoria</b>	<b>3,764</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2,890</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>874</b>	<b>30.2</b>	<b>4,845,710</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>4,355,243</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>490,467</b>	<b>11.3</b>

<sup>(a)</sup>Applicable to persons aged 15 years and over.

This fact sheet is available for free download at [www.multicultural.vic.gov.au](http://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*.