



Migration from Argentina and the dynamics of integration

Summary

- > The Argentine-born population is the fourth largest migrant group from Latin America resident in Australia.
- > In 2018 there were an estimated 17,500 Argentine-born residents of Australia, representing an increase of 45.5% since 2001.
- > In 2019 there were 4,423 Argentine migrants on temporary visas in Australia.
- > 47.5% of Australia's Argentine-born population resides in New South Wales, followed by 29.4% in Victoria.

Dynamics of migration

History of migration to Australia

The Argentine presence in Australia can be traced back to the 1891 Colonial Census, which recorded 35 Argentine migrants in Australia. By 1921 Argentina had become the largest national group of Latin American migrants in Australia with 267 residents. The 1,757 Argentines recorded in the 1971 Australian Census represented the third largest migrant group from Latin America at that time. The largest period of net Argentine migration occurred between 1973 and 1979 with 4,953 immigrants arriving for settlement in Australia. These Argentine-born migrants were joined by a large group of European-born immigrants to Argentina who then remigrated on to Australia numbering almost 1,400 arrivals between 1974 and 1985. By 1986 there were 9,195 Argentine-born migrants living in Australia.

The 2016 Census asked people who were born overseas what year they first arrived in Australia. It did not measure

Figure 1. Argentine-born population of Australia by year of arrival, 2016

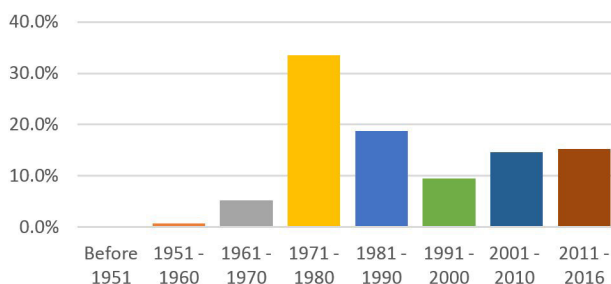
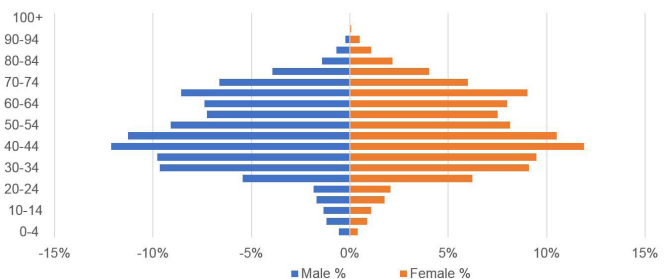


Figure 2. Argentine-born population of Australia by age and sex, 2016



all migrant arrivals, as the overseas-born population recorded in the Census excluded migrants who resided in Australia for less than a year, re-migrated or those who died. A third (33.5%) of the Argentine-born population had arrived in Australia between 1971 and 1980.

Demographic composition

The median age of the Argentine-born population of Australia was 47, whereas the median age of the Australian population was 38 in 2016. Over a fifth (21.6%) of the Argentine-born population was between the ages of 35 and 44 years. Close to half of the Argentines in Australia were between the ages of 40 and 65 years old (47.2% of men and 46.1% of women). The largest age group for both Argentine men and women in Australia was the 40 to 44 years age group. Among the Argentine-born population, 22.2% were over 65 years old and 2.7% under 15 years old.

Of the total Argentine-born population of Australia, 47.7% were men and 52.3% were women. The sex ratio was 91.2 males per 100 females, which compared to a sex ratio of 97.2 for the total Australian population.

Geography of settlement

In 2016, 46.8% of Argentine migrants were resident in New South Wales (NSW). Of these, 90.79% lived in greater Sydney. The second leading state of residence was Victoria, where 30% of Argentine migrants resided. Of these, 94.7% lived in greater Melbourne.

Australia-wide, the most popular suburbs for residence were Bossley Park, Abbotsbury, Fairlight, Manly and Wetherill Park/Smithfield.

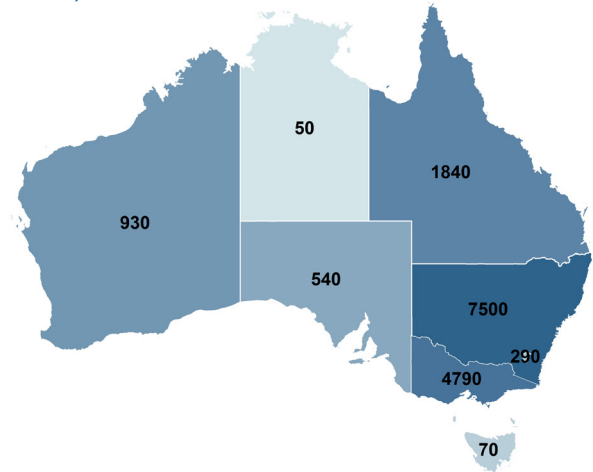
The distribution of Argentine migrants across Australia has remained relatively constant, with NSW and Victoria hosting the majority of Argentine migrants from 1996 to 2016. There has been a slight reduction in the proportion of Argentine migrants in NSW compared to 1996—a reduction of approximately 5% in NSW and a similar increase in Queensland.

Pathways to integration

Economic impact

The 2016 Census recorded that the largest sector of employment for Argentine-born residents in Australia was the professional, scientific and technical services industry.

Figure 3. Argentine-born population of Australia by state of residence, 2016

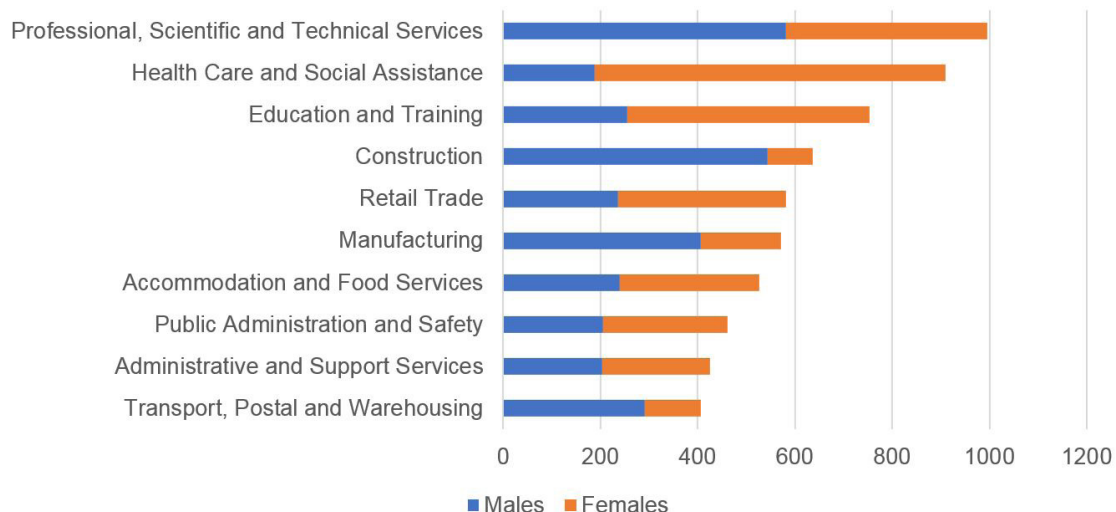


For Argentines working in Australia, 12.16% worked in this sector, of whom 58.5% were male.

The next two largest industries of employment for Argentine residents were the health care and social assistance industry (11.25%) and the education and training industry (9.29%). Both industries were dominated by women, comprising 79.3% and 66% of the Argentine workforce in these industries respectively.

The industry composition has changed significantly since 2011, when the leading industry for Argentine employment was health care and social assistance. In 2011, the professional, scientific and technical services industry was the third-largest employer after the manufacturing industry.

Figure 4. Argentine-born population of Australia by industry of employment, 2016



Education

Almost a third (31.6%) of Australia’s Argentine-born population aged 15 and over had completed a university Bachelor degree level qualification or above. This compares to 20.4% for the Australian-born population. A growing share of the Argentine migrant population is university educated—the 2011 Census recorded that 25% of Australia’s Argentine-born population had a Bachelor degree qualification or above.

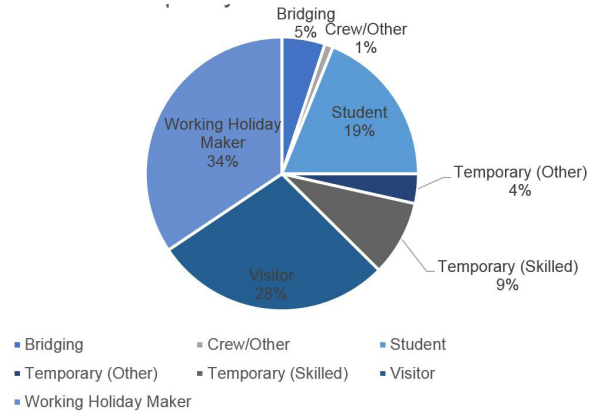
Contemporary migration

The number of Argentine migrants in Australia on temporary visas has increased by almost fourfold in the last five years, from 1,273 in 2014 to 4,423 in 2019. The main types of temporary visas are bridging visas, student visas and working holiday maker visas. All three categories have seen significant increases, with student visas and working holiday maker visas seeing an increase of approximately four times the number in 2014, and bridging visas increasing more than three times the number in 2014.

Identity and community

The Australian Census captures data from both people born in Argentina who have migrated to Australia (known as the First Generation), and those who have one or both parents born in Argentina (Second Generation). In the 2016 Census, 77.3% of Australia’s Argentine-

Figure 5. Types of temporary visas held by Argentines in Australia, March 2019



born population were Australian citizens. As a bilingual population, 92.4% of First Generation Argentines speak English well or very well, while 80.6% also speak Spanish at home.

In 2016, the total size of the Second Generation Argentine population in Australia was 11,272 persons. As the children of migrants, their age profile is considerably younger than the Argentine-born population. The largest Second Generation group was those aged five to nine years, totalling 1,675 persons. There were 6,102 Second Generation Argentines aged under 20, and 4,041 persons aged from 20 to 39 years.

The Australian Census asks respondents to self-identify their ancestry to provide further detail on their ethnic or

Figure 6. Age profile of First and Second Generation Argentines in Australia, 2016

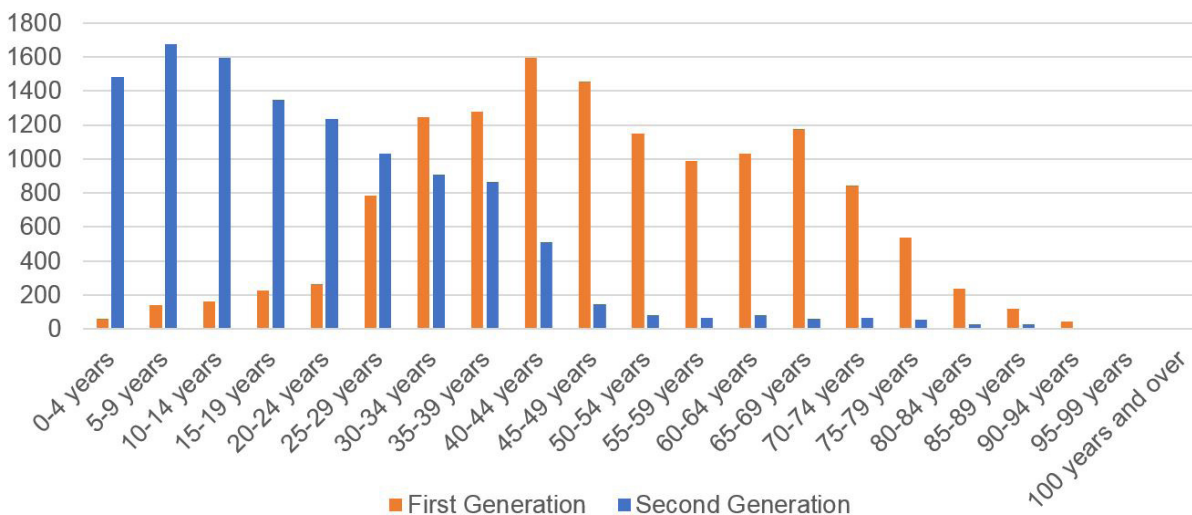
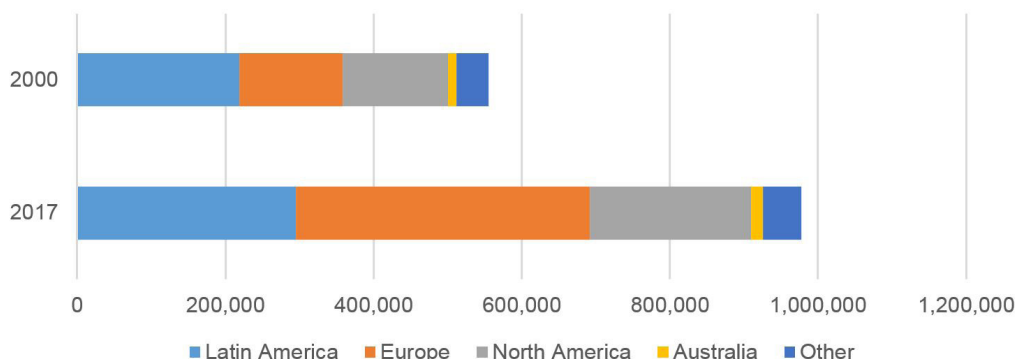


Figure 7. Global distribution of Argentine migrants in 2000 and 2017



cultural identity beyond their place of birth or citizenship. Latin American migrants may identify their ancestry with one or two specific countries, an indigenous identity (such as Mayan), a regional identity (South or Central American) or other types of ancestry (for example European, Asian, African or American). There were 12,096 persons who identified in the 2016 Census as having Argentine ancestry, of whom 5.8% had both parents born in Australia and 22.6% had one parent born in Australia.

Global connections

Recent migration to Australia from Argentina has been affected by broader changes to the internal economies of Latin America and to their external migration flows, caused by globalisation. The population of Argentina in 2017 was 44.3 million persons. Another 977,209 Argentines are estimated to be living outside their country of birth. Of this diaspora:

- > 295,132 Argentine-born migrants were resident in Latin America
- > 396,314 Argentine-born migrants were resident in Europe
- > 218,034 Argentine-born migrants were resident in North America

The number of Argentine migrants has increased by 80% between 2000 and 2017. The geographic distribution of the Argentine diaspora has also changed as Latin America and North America have seen a reduction in the share of Argentine migrants that they receive. The shift in distribution has mostly been the result of growing migrant populations in Europe, with Europe now increasing its share of the Argentine diaspora from 25% to 41% in 2017.

According to the World Bank, remittances to Argentina totalled US\$688 million in 2017, with US\$11 million of these funds being sent from Australia.

Data sources: Australian Bureau of Statistics (2019) *Migration, Australia 2017–18*; Australian Bureau of Statistics (2016) *Census*; Department of Home Affairs (2019) *Temporary Visa Holders in Australia Dataset*; Department of Home Affairs (2018) *Historical Migration Statistics*; United Nations (2017) *Trends in International Migrant Stock: The 2017 Revision*; World Bank (2018) *Bilateral Remittance Estimates for 2017*.

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