

Migration from Brazil and the dynamics of integration

Summary

- > The Brazilian-born population is the largest migrant group from Latin America resident in Australia. Over the last 20 years, Brazilians have moved from the fifth largest migrant group from Latin America to the largest.
- > In 2018 there were an estimated 46,450 Brazilian-born residents of Australia, representing an increase of 807.2% since 2001.
- > In 2016, Brazil had the largest number of migrants residing in Australia out of all Latin American countries at 27,625 persons.
- > 44.6% of Australia's Brazilian-born population resides in New South Wales, followed by 24.1% in Queensland.

Dynamics of migration

History of migration to Australia

Brazilian migration to colonial Australia was partly fuelled by the shipping routes that connected Australia to England via Rio de Janeiro. The Brazilian presence in Australia can be traced back to the 1891 Colonial Census, which recorded 138 Brazilian migrants in Australia – representing almost a third (31.5%) of the Latin American population in Australia at that time. By the 1921 Census Brazil had fallen from the largest Latin American migrant group to the fourth largest. Migration from Brazil increased in the late 1960s with the Australian Government's assisted migration scheme and by 1971 there were 823 Brazilian-born residents in Australia. In the 1980s, increasing numbers of Brazilians arrived as skilled migrants, through family reunion visas and through Australia's Humanitarian Program resulting in a population of 2006 Brazilian-born migrants in Australia in 1986.

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

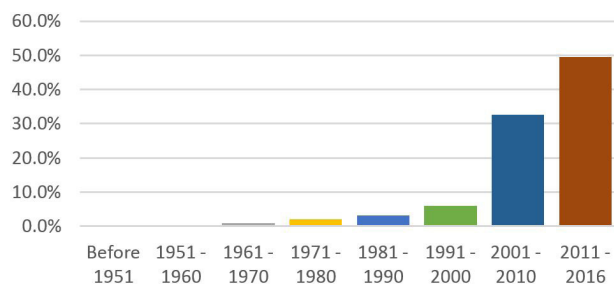
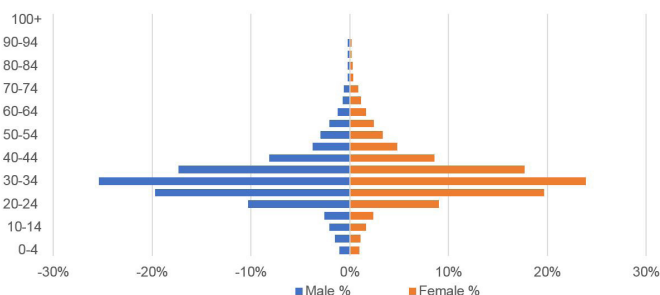


Figure 2. Brazilian-born population of Australia by age and sex, 2016



The 2016 Census asked people who were born overseas what year they first arrived in Australia. It did not measure 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. Half (49.6%) of the Brazilians residing in Australia in 2016 arrived after 2010. Only 12.4% of the Brazilian-born population had arrived in Australia before 2001.

Demographic composition

The median age of the Brazilian-born population of Australia was 32, whereas the median age of the Australian population was 38 in 2016. Almost half (44.4%) of the Brazilian-born population was between the ages of 25 and 34 years. Almost three-quarters (70.2%) of Brazilian migrants in Australia were between the ages of 25 and 44. The largest age group for both Brazilian men and women in Australia was the 30 to 34 years age

group. Among the Brazilian-born population, 2.4% was over 65 years old and 4.1% was under 15 years old. The Brazilian-born migrant population is therefore relatively youthful, reflecting its more recent arrival in Australia.

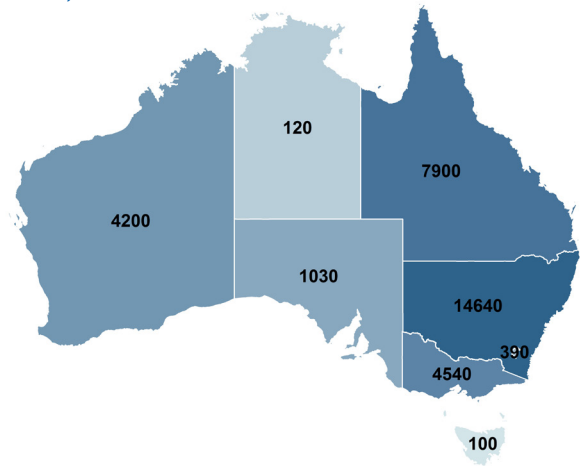
Of the total Brazilian-born population of Australia 46.7% were men and 53.3% were women. The sex ratio was 87.6 males per 100 females which compared to a sex ratio of 97.2 for the Australian population.

Geography of settlement

In 2016, 44.5% of Brazilian migrants resided in New South Wales (NSW). Of these, 93% lived in greater Sydney. The second leading state of residence was Queensland where 24% of Brazilian migrants resided. Of these, 52.3% lived in greater Brisbane. Australia-wide, the most popular areas for residence were Dee Why and North Curl Curl in NSW, Surfers Paradise in Queensland and Perth City in Western Australia.

The distribution of Brazilian migrants across Australia has changed over time. Whilst NSW has hosted the majority of Brazilian migrants from 2001 to 2016, its share of the Brazilian population decreased by 10%. Queensland has overtaken Victoria to become the second largest state of residence for Brazilian migrants. The proportion of Brazilian migrants in Queensland increased from 13.7% in 2001 to 24% in 2016. In Western Australia the state's share of Brazilian migrants increased from 8.4% to 12.8% during the same period.

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



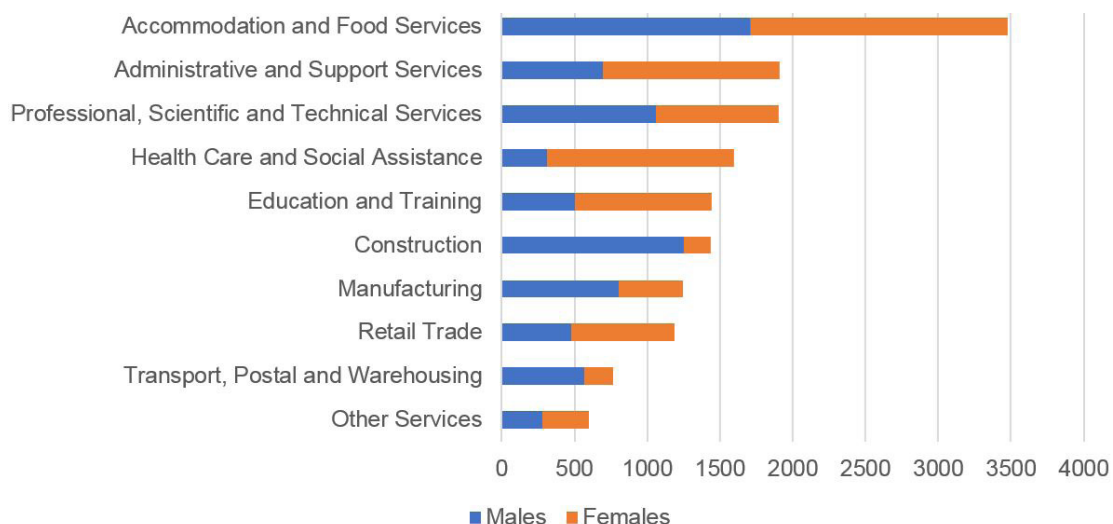
Pathways to integration

Economic impact

The 2016 Census recorded that the main industry of employment for Brazilian migrants was the accommodation and food services industry, comprising 17.9% of Brazilian employment across all industries. This industry was the largest employer of both males and females in 2016.

The second and third largest industries of employment for Brazilians were the administrative and support services industry (9.9%) and the professional, scientific and technical services industry (9.8%). In the

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



administrative and support services industry women comprised 63.7% of Brazilian employment. In the professional, scientific and technical services industry men comprised 55.8% of employees. In 2011, the largest industries of Brazilian employment after the accommodation and food services industry were the professional, scientific and professional services industry and the manufacturing industry, respectively.

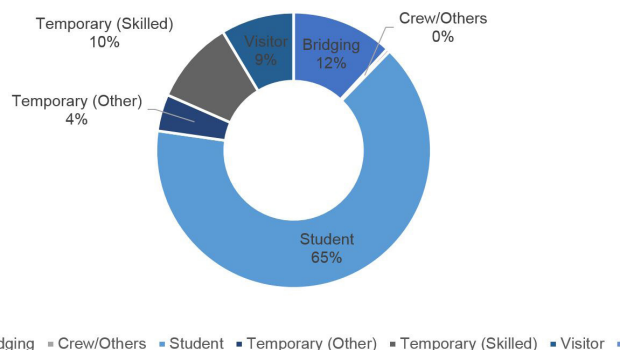
Education

Over half (55.4%) of Australia’s Brazilian-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 Brazilian migrant population is university educated—the 2011 Census recorded that 48% of Australia’s Brazilian-born population had a Bachelor degree qualification or above.

Contemporary migration

The number of Brazilian migrants in Australia on temporary visas has increased by nearly threefold in the last five years, from 13,581 in 2014 to 31,992 in 2019. The main types of temporary visas are bridging visas, student visas and temporary resident visas. Of these categories, the changes in the numbers of bridging visas and student visas have been the most significant. The number of Brazilian migrants on bridging visas has increased nearly fourfold and the number on student visas has more than doubled.

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



Identity and community

The Australian Census captures data from both people born in Brazil who have migrated to Australia (known as the First Generation), and those who have one or both parents born in Brazil (Second Generation). In the 2016 Census, 31.9% of Australia’s Brazilian-born population were Australian citizens. This reflects the fact that more than half of the Brazilian migrants in Australia arrived after 2010. As a bilingual population 91.4% of First Generation Brazilians speak English well or very well, while 86.4% also speak Portuguese at home.

In 2016, the total size of the Second Generation Brazilian population in Australia was 8,229 persons. The largest group was those aged zero to four years, totalling 6,523 persons. There were 6,523 Second

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

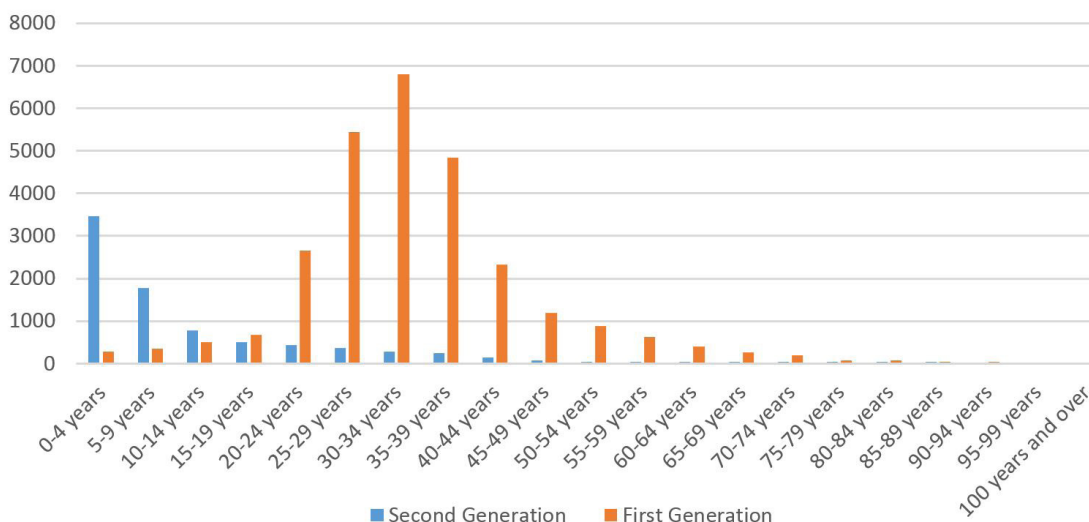
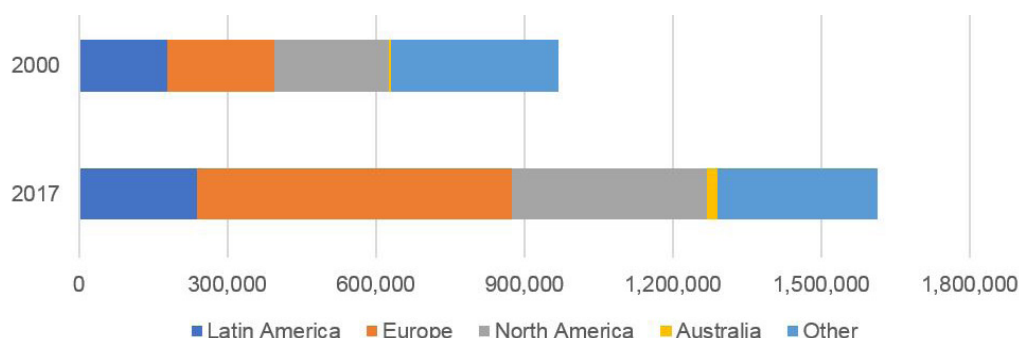


Figure 7. Global distribution of Brazilian migrants in 2000 and 2017



Generation persons aged under 20, and 1,318 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 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 21,352 persons who identified in the 2016 Census as having Brazilian ancestry of whom 1.4% had both parents born in Australia and 13.6% had one parent born in Australia.

Global connections

Recent migration to Australia from Brazil has been affected by broader changes to the internal economies of Latin America and to their external migration flows, caused by globalisation. The population in Brazil in 2017 was 209.3 million persons. Another 1,612,860 Brazilians are estimated to be living outside the country of their

birth. Of this diaspora:

- > 238,842 Brazilian-born migrants were resident in Latin America
- > 635,731 Brazilian-born migrants were resident in Europe
- > 394,168 Brazilian-born migrants were resident in North America

The number of Brazilian migrants has increased by two-thirds between 2000 and 2017. The geographic distribution of the Brazilian diaspora has changed as Europe is now the residence of the largest share of the Brazilian diaspora (from 22% in 2000 to 39% in 2017). Although there has been a significant increase in the number of Brazilian migrants to Australia, the proportion of the Brazilian diaspora living in Australia has remained largely unchanged from 2000 to 2017.

According to the World Bank, remittances to Brazil totalled US\$2.7 billion in 2017, with US\$28 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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