



Migration from Chile and the dynamics of integration

Summary

- > The Chilean-born population is the second largest migrant group from Latin America resident in Australia. From 1971 to 2016 Chileans were the largest migrant group from Latin America.
- > In 2018 there were an estimated 33,040 Chilean-born residents of Australia, representing an increase of 27% since 2001.
- > In 2019 there are 7,445 Chilean migrants on temporary visas in Australia.
- > 50.1% of Australia's Chilean-born population resides in New South Wales, followed by 28.4% in Victoria.

Dynamics of migration

History of migration to Australia

Exiled former President of Chile Ramón Freire was among the earliest migrants from Latin America to cross the Pacific in 1837. Another early migrant was Chris Watson who was born in Chile in 1867 and became Australia's third prime minister in 1904. The 1891 Colonial Census recorded 138 Chilean migrants in Australia.

During the late 1960s, economic pressures and political uncertainty in Chile resulted in significant migration to Australia; as a result, prior to 1973 it was estimated that there were 4,621 Chileans resident in Australia. These migration flows were transformed during the military dictatorship of General Augusto Pinochet when over 21,092 Chileans travelled to Australia between 1973 and 1990. Almost 4,000 of these migrants return to Chile following the restoration of democracy in 1990, although new flows of Chileans came to Australia under the Family Migration Stream.

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

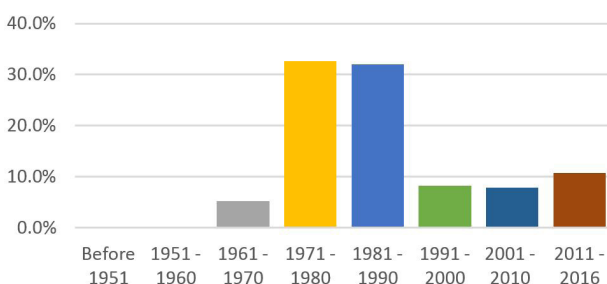
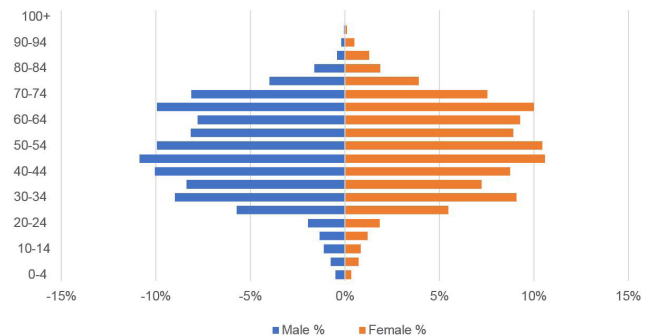


Figure 2. Chilean-born population of Australia by age and sex, 2016



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. In 2016, a third (32.7%) of Chileans living in Australia arrived in the 1970s. Approximately 10.8% of Chileans residing in Australia arrived after 2010.

Demographic composition

The median age of the Chilean-born population of Australia was 51, whereas the median age of the Australian population was 38 in 2016. A fifth (20.9%) of the Chilean-born population was between the ages of 45 and 54 years. Close to half of Chilean migrants in Australia were between the ages of 40 and 65 years (46.8% of men and 48% of women). Among Chilean migrants, 25.1% of men and 23.7% of women were aged between 20 and 39 years. The largest age group for both



Chilean-born men and women in Australia was the 45 to 49 years age group. Among the Chilean-born population, 24.8% was over 65 years old and 2.1% was under 15 years old.

Of the total Chilean-born population of Australia, 47.9% were men and 52.1 were women. The sex ratio was 91.9 males per 100 females which compared to a sex ratio of 97.2 for the total Australian population.

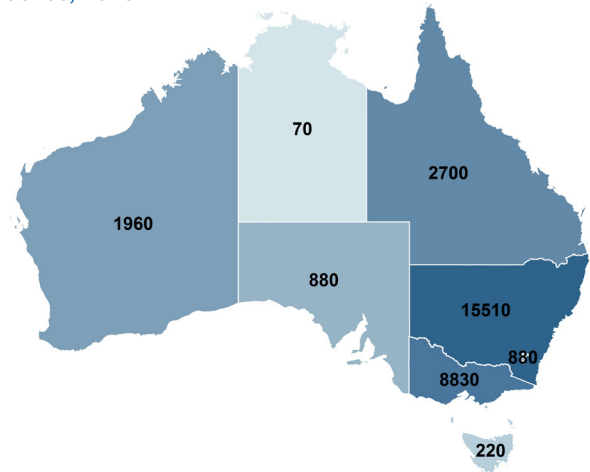
Geography of settlement

In 2016, 50.1% of Chilean migrants resided in New South Wales (NSW). Of these, 88.4% lived in greater Sydney. The second leading state of residence was Victoria, where 28.5% of Chilean migrants lived. Of these, 96.4% lived in greater Melbourne.

Australia-wide, the most popular areas for residence were Bossley Park, Abbotsbury, Smithfield, Wetherill Park and Fairfield. All of these suburbs are located in NSW.

The distribution of Chilean migrants across Australia has remained relatively constant, with NSW hosting the majority of Chilean migrants from 1996 to 2016—around half of all the Chilean migrants in Australia. Queensland has seen an increase in its proportion of Chilean migrants, nearly doubling from 4.8% in 1996 to 8.7% in 2016.

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



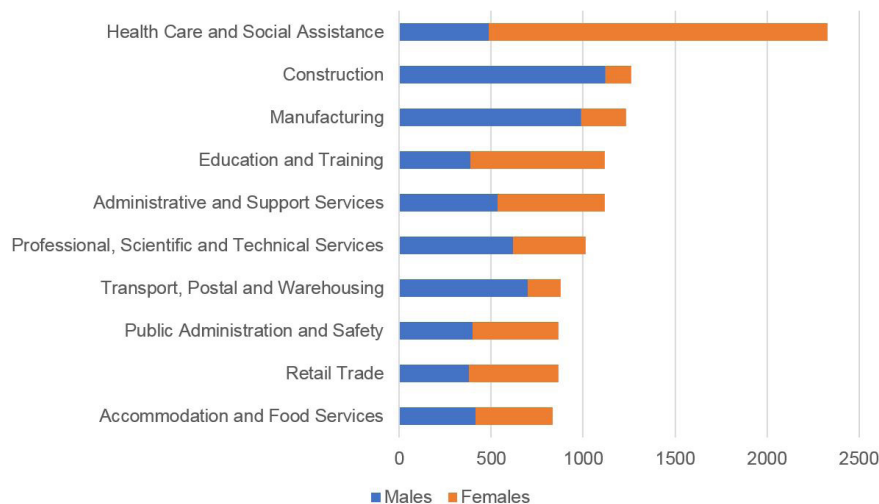
Pathways to integration

Economic impact

The 2016 Census recorded that Chilean-born residents in Australia worked primarily in the health care and social assistance industry, with a total of 2,330 Chilean workers in the industry representing 16.1% of all Chilean employees across all industries. Of these employees, 79.2% were female. This industry was the largest employer of female workers in 2016.

The construction industry (8.68%) and manufacturing industry (8.45%) were the second and third largest sectors of employment for Chilean migrants in 2016.

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



Both industries were dominated by men, with males taking a total employment share of 88.9% and 81.5% in the industries respectively. In 2011, the three main industries of employment for Chilean employees were the health care and social assistance, retail trade and manufacturing industries.

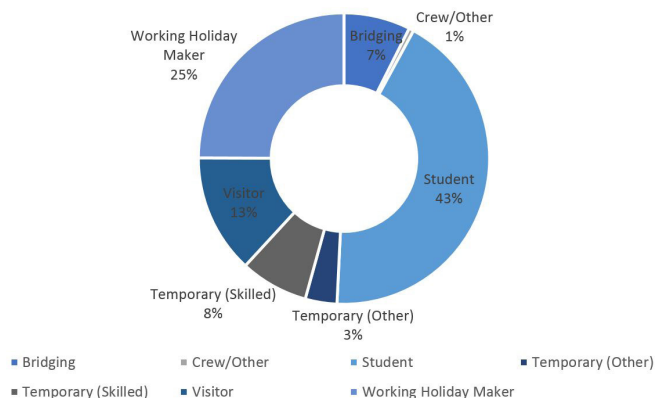
Education

A quarter (25.2%) of Australia's Chilean-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 Chilean migrant population is university educated—the 2011 Census recorded that 19% of Australia's Chilean-born population has a Bachelor degree qualification or above.

Contemporary migration

The number of Chilean migrants in Australia on temporary visas has more than doubled in the last five years, from 3,241 in 2014 to 7,445 in 2019. The main types of temporary visas are bridging visas, student visas and working holiday maker visas. The visa category that has seen the biggest increase is the bridging visa. There were more than three times the amount of Chilean migrants on bridging visas in 2019 than in 2014—551 people were on bridging visas in 2019 compared to 158 in 2014. The number of Chileans on student visas and working holiday visas has more than doubled since 2014.

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



Identity and community

The Australian Census captures data from both people born in Chile who have migrated to Australia (known as the First Generation), and their Australian-born children (the Second Generation). The 2016 Census, 74.3% of Australia's Chilean-born population were Australian citizens. As a bilingual population, 86.9% of First Generation Chileans speak English well or very well, while 84.3% also speak Spanish at home.

In 2016, the Second Generation Chilean population in Australia was 20,959 persons. As the children of migrants, their age profile is considerably younger than the Chilean-born population. The largest Second Generation group was those aged 15 to 19 years,

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

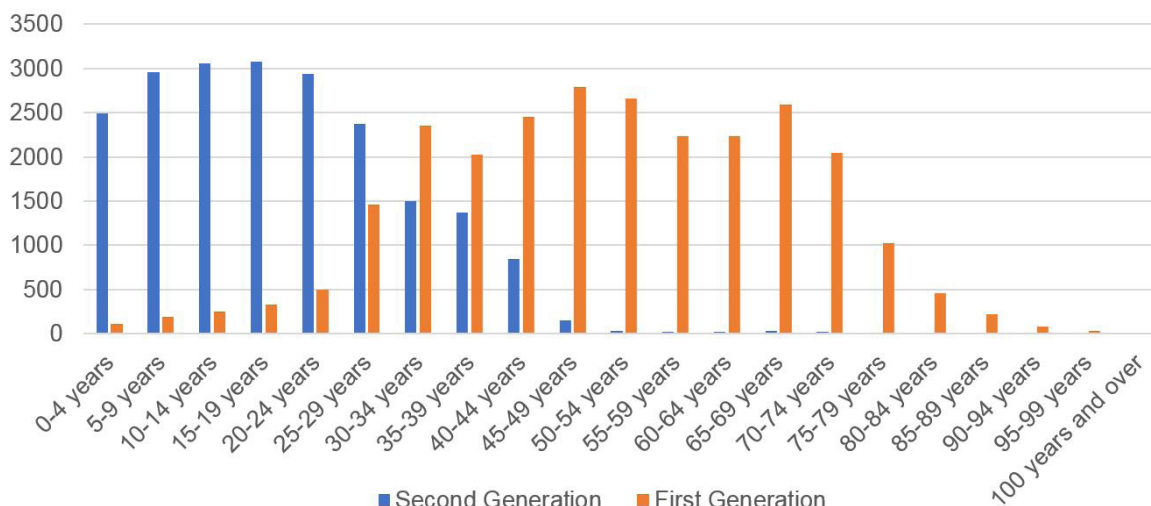
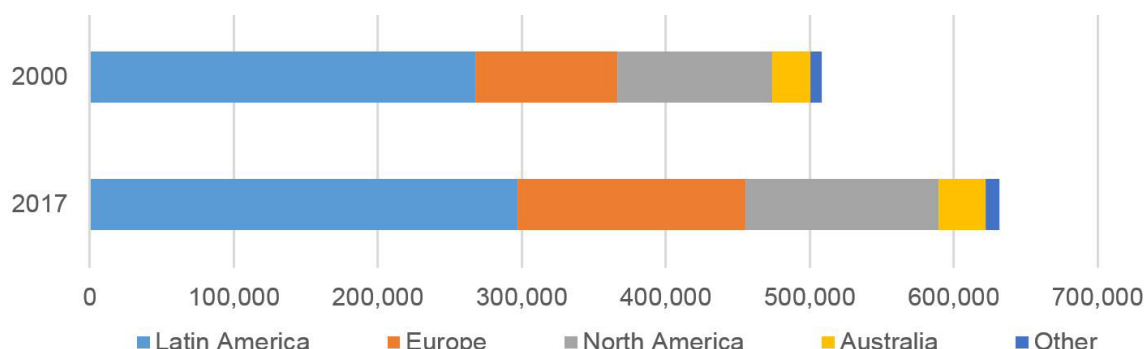


Figure 7. Global distribution of Chilean migrants in 2000 and 2017



totalling 3,077 persons. There were 11,598 Second Generation Chileans aged under 20, and 8,190 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. For Latin American migrants they may identify with one or two specific countries, an indigenous identity (such as Mayan), a regional identity (South or Central America) or other types of ancestry (for example European, Asian, African or American). There were 34,229 people who identified in the 2016 Census as having Chilean ancestry, of whom 5.3% had both parents born in Australia and 18.2% had one parent born in Australia.

Global connections

Recent migration to Australia from Chile 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 Chile in 2017

was 18,054,726 people. Another 631,832 Chileans are estimated to have migrated overseas. Of this diaspora:

- > 297,300 were in Latin America
- > 158,230 were in Europe
- > 134,286 were in North America
- > 32,462 were in Australia

The number of Chilean migrants has increased by 24.3% between 2000 and 2017. The geographic distribution of the Chilean diaspora has remained fairly constant, with Latin America still receiving the majority of Chilean migrants, and the proportion of Chilean migrants in North America, Australia and other regions remaining the same as 2000 in 2017. There has been an increase in the proportion of migrants that Europe received in 2017, rising 6% from 2000.

According to the World Bank, remittances to Chile totalled US\$104 million in 2017, with US\$5 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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