



# Migration from Ecuador and the dynamics of integration

## Summary

- > The Ecuadorian-born population is the tenth largest migrant group from Latin America resident in Australia. Over the last 20 years, Ecuadorians have moved from the eighth largest migrant group from Latin America to the tenth largest.
- > In 2018 there were an estimated 2,770 Ecuadorian-born residents of Australia, representing an increase of 89.7% since 2001.
- > In 2019 there were 644 Ecuadorian migrants on temporary visas in Australia.
- > 61.5% of Australia’s Ecuadorian-born population resides in New South Wales, followed by 15.0% in Queensland.

## Dynamics of migration

### History of migration to Australia

The Ecuadorian presence in Australia can be traced back to the 1891 Colonial Census, which recorded two Ecuadorian migrants in Australia—one in New South Wales (NSW) and one in Victoria. By 1986, there were 1,006 Ecuadorians in Australia. The number of Ecuadorian migrants residing in Australia has almost doubled from 1,440 in 1998 to 2,770 in 2018.

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. Most Ecuadorians living in Australia arrived from 1990 onwards (59%). Approximately 29% of Ecuadorians residing in Australia in 2016 arrived after 2010.

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

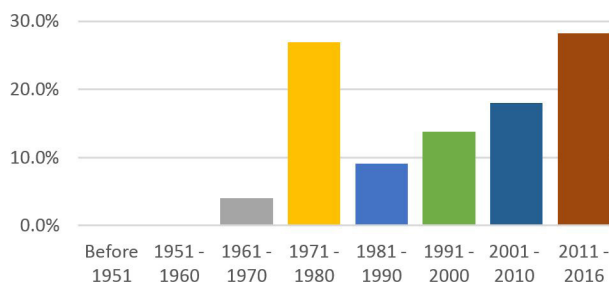
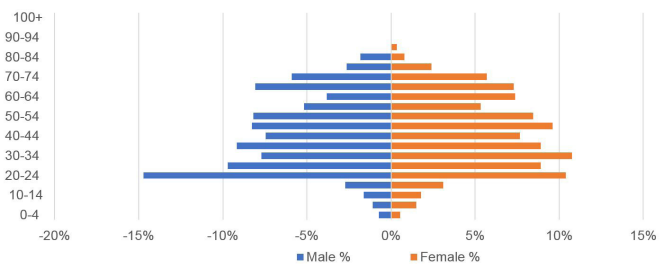


Figure 2. Ecuadorian-born population of Australia by age and sex, 2016



### Demographic composition

Of the Ecuadorian-born population of Australia in 2016, 74.3% of men and 77.4% of women were between the ages of 20 and 65 years. The population aged between 20 and 39 years was 41.3% for men and 39% for women, while the population aged between 40 and 65 years was 33% for men and 38.4% for women. The largest age group for Ecuadorian men in Australia was the 20 to 24 years age group (14.71%) and the largest age group for Ecuadorian women was the 30 to 34 years age group (10.8%).

Among the Ecuadorian-born population, 17.5% were over 65 years old and 6.6% were under 20 years old.

## Geography of settlement

In 2016, 60.9% of Ecuadorian migrants resided in NSW. The second leading state of residence was Queensland, where 15.1% of Ecuadorians lived.

Australia-wide, the most popular areas for residence were Mascot/Eastlakes and Waterloo/Beaconsfield in NSW, St Lucia in Queensland and Carlton in Victoria. All of these suburbs are closely connected to neighbouring universities (the University of NSW, the University of Queensland and the University of Melbourne).

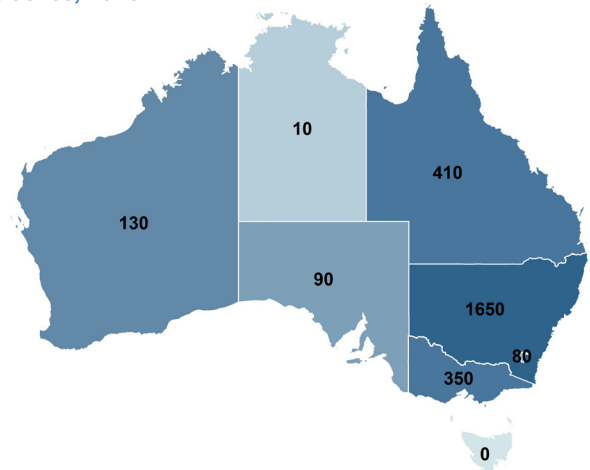
The distribution of Ecuadorian migrants across Australia has changed over time. Although New South Wales still hosts the majority of Ecuadorian migrants, it has decreased significantly from 87% in 2001 to 60.9% in 2016. Queensland (15% in 2016) and Victoria (13% in 2016) have seen a large increase in their share of Ecuadorian migrants, with both states tripling their share of the Ecuadorian-born population during the same period.

## Pathways to integration

### Economic impact

The 2016 Census recorded that the health care and social assistance industry was the largest employer of Ecuadorian-born migrants, employing 7% of Ecuadorian workers. This industry was dominated by females, representing 76% of Ecuadorian employees. This industry was the largest employer of Ecuadorian women.

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

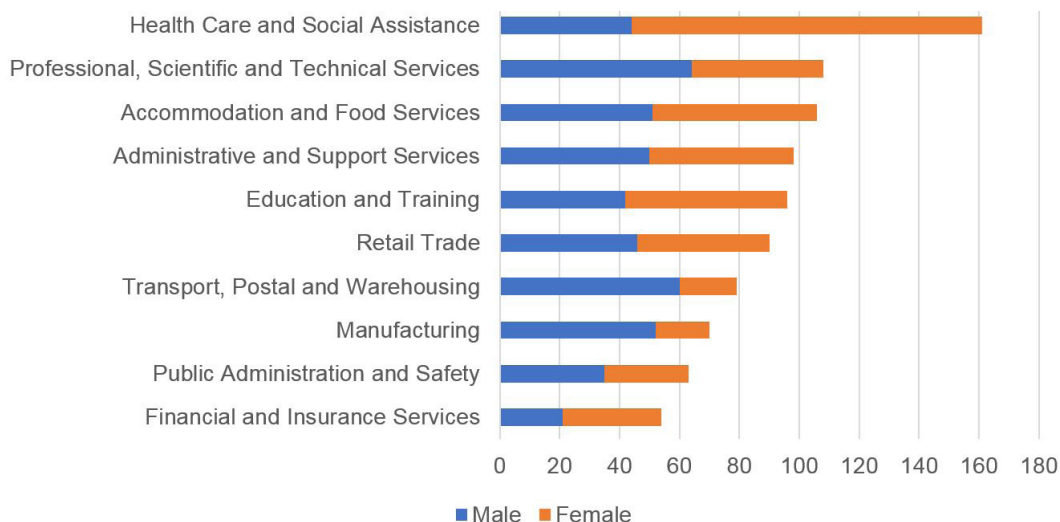


The professional, scientific and technical services industry was the second largest industry, followed closely by the accommodation and food services industry, holding 4.9% and 4.8% shares in all Ecuadorian employment in Australia respectively. The gender balance in the professional, scientific and technical services industry was 59.2% male and 40.8% female. The accommodation and food services industry had a more even gender split.

### Education

Over a quarter (27.9%) of Australia's Ecuadorian-born population aged 15 and over had completed a university Bachelor degree level qualification or above. This

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



compares to 20.4% for the Australian-born population. A growing share of the Ecuadorian migrant population are university educated—the 2011 Census recorded that 22% of Australia’s Ecuadorian-born population had a Bachelor degree qualification or above.

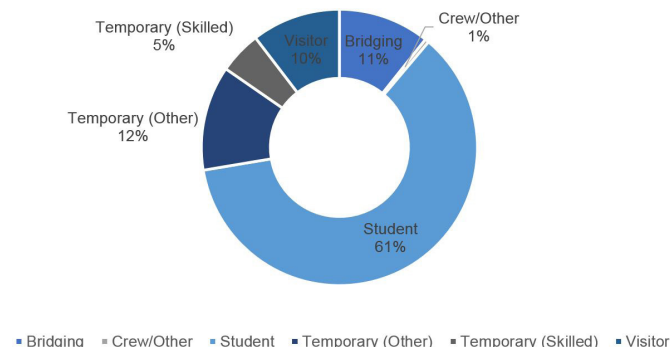
### Contemporary migration

The number of Ecuadorian migrants in Australia on temporary visas fluctuates year by year, with 644 migrants holding temporary visas in Australia in 2019. The main types of temporary visas are bridging visas, student visas and temporary resident visas. Of these, the most significant increase has been in the bridging visas, which have more than tripled from 20 in 2014 to 69 in 2019. There has been a decrease in the number of Ecuadorian migrants on student visas, decreasing from around 600 in 2014 to around 400 in 2019.

### Identity and community

The Australian Census captures data from both people born in Ecuador who have migrated to Australia (known as the First Generation), and those who have one or both parents born in Ecuador (Second Generation). In the 2016 Census, 63.1% of Australia’s Ecuadorian-born population were Australian citizens. As a bilingual population, 86% of First Generation Ecuadorians also speak Spanish at home.

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



In 2016, the total size of the Second Generation Ecuadorian population in Australia was 1485 persons. As the children of migrants, their age profile is considerably younger than the Ecuadorian-born population. The largest sub-section of Second Generation Ecuadorians was those aged five to nine years, totalling 229 persons.

The First Generation Ecuadorian population in Australia in 2016 totalled 2,210 persons. The largest sub-section of First Generation Ecuadorians was those aged 20 to 24 years, totalling 278 persons. This generational spread is a consequence of the fact that the majority of Ecuadorian migration into Australia has happened relatively recently.

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

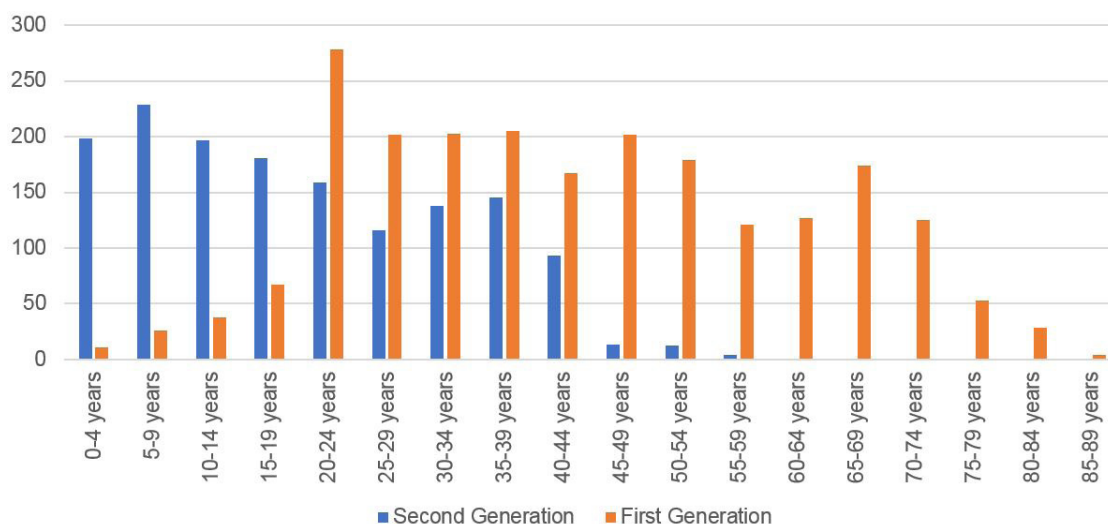
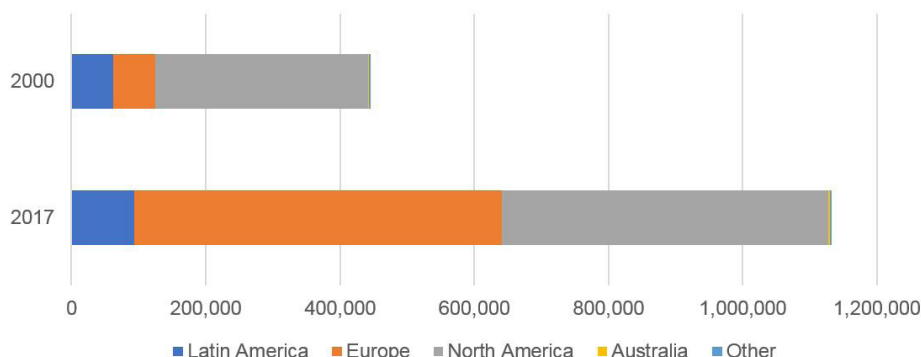


Figure 7. Global distribution of Ecuadorian migrants in 2000 and 2017



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 2,157 persons who identified in the 2016 Census as having Ecuadorian ancestry, of whom 4.5% had both parents born in Australia and 18.1% had one parent born in Australia.

## Global connections

Recent migration to Australia from Ecuador 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 Ecuador in 2017 was 16.6 million persons. Another 1,131,427 Ecuadorians were estimated to be living outside their

country of birth. Of this diaspora:

- > 93,148 Ecuadorian-born migrants were resident in Latin America
- > 547,669 Ecuadorian-born migrants were resident in Europe
- > 486,171 Ecuadorian-born migrants were resident in North America

The number of Ecuadorian migrants has increased by 154% between 2000 and 2017. The geographic distribution of the Ecuadorian diaspora has also shifted as North America has seen a significant reduction in its share migrants (71% in 2000 to 43% in 2017). The greatest growth in Ecuadorian migration was focused in Europe which now contains almost half of all Ecuadorian migrants overseas (49% in 2017).

According to the World Bank, remittances to Ecuador totalled US\$2848 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*.

**This briefing is one in a series: Latin America in Australia**

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