



Migration from Guatemala and the dynamics of integration

Summary

- > The Guatemalan-born population is the 14th largest migrant group from Latin America resident in Australia. Over the last 20 years, Guatemalans have moved from the 16th largest migrant group from Latin America to the 14th largest.
- > In 2018 there were an estimated 590 Guatemalan-born residents of Australia, representing an increase of 90.3% since 2001.
- > In 2019 there are 91 Guatemalan migrants on temporary visas in Australia.
- > 31.8% of Australia's Guatemalan-born population resides in Victoria, followed by 30.7% in New South Wales.

Dynamics of migration

History of migration to Australia

Small numbers of Guatemalan migrants arrived in Australia during the 1960s and 1970s before increasing during the period 1983 to 1988 with over a hundred immigrant arrivals. Migration from Guatemala has resulted in the steady growth of Guatemalan-born residents in Australia with a 90.3% increase to an estimated 590 persons.

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. Almost a third (30.3%) of Guatemalan migrants living in Australia arrived in the period 1981 to 1990.

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

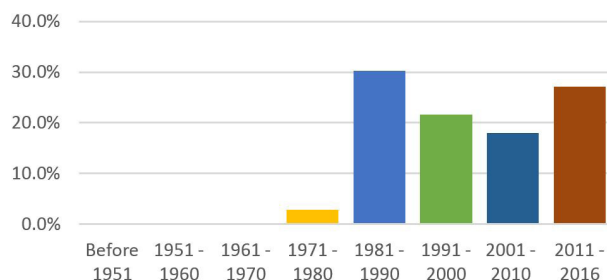
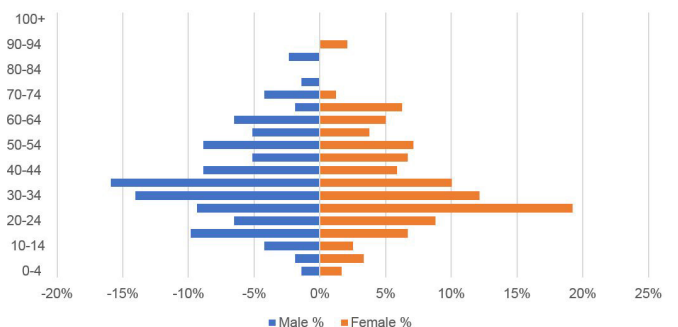


Figure 2. Guatemalan-born population of Australia by age and sex, 2016



In 2016, 27.2% of Australia's Guatemalan-born residents had settled in Australia after 2010.

Demographic composition

Around half of all Guatemalans in Australia in 2016 were between the ages of 20 and 39 years old (45.8% of men and 50.2% of women). Of the Guatemalan population, 34.6% of men and 28.5% of women were aged between 40 and 65 years. The largest age group for Guatemalan men was the 35 to 39 years age group and the largest age group for Guatemalan women was the 25 to 29 years age group. Amongst the Guatemalan-born population, 9.9% were over 65 years old and 16% were under 20 years old.

Of the total Guatemalan-born population of Australia, 47.2% were men and 52.8% were women. The sex ratio was 89.5 males per 100 females, which compared to a sex ratio of 97.2 for the total Australian population.



Geography of settlement

In 2016, 32.7% of Guatemalan residents resided in New South Wales (NSW). Of these, 82.27% lived in greater Sydney. The second leading state of residence was Victoria, where 30.9% of Guatemalan migrants lived. Of these, 31.9% lived in greater Melbourne. Australia-wide, the most popular areas for residence were Durack/Marlow Lagoon in the Northern Territory, North Sydney/Lavender Bay in NSW and Sunshine West in Victoria.

The distribution of Guatemalan migrants across Australia has changed over time. Whilst in 2001 Victoria hosted the largest proportion of Guatemalan migrants, in 2016, it was NSW which was the leading state of residence for the Guatemalan-born.

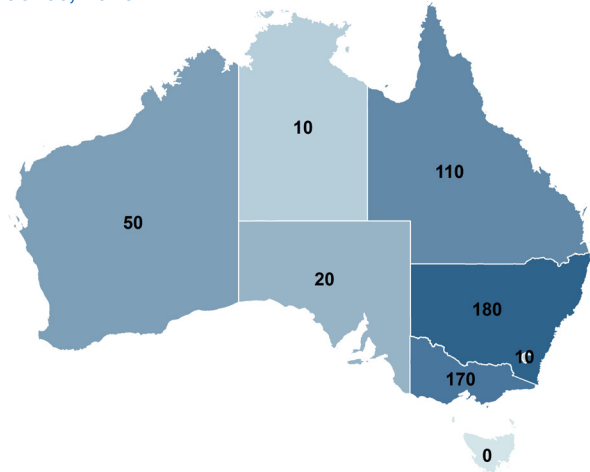
Pathways to integration

Economic impact

The 2016 Census recorded that the health care and social assistance industry was the largest employer of migrants from Guatemala, representing 10.4% of all Guatemalan employees across all industries. Of these workers 68.1% were female.

The education and training industry (6.4%) and the professional, scientific and technical services industry (5.9%) were the second and third largest employers of Guatemalan migrants.

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

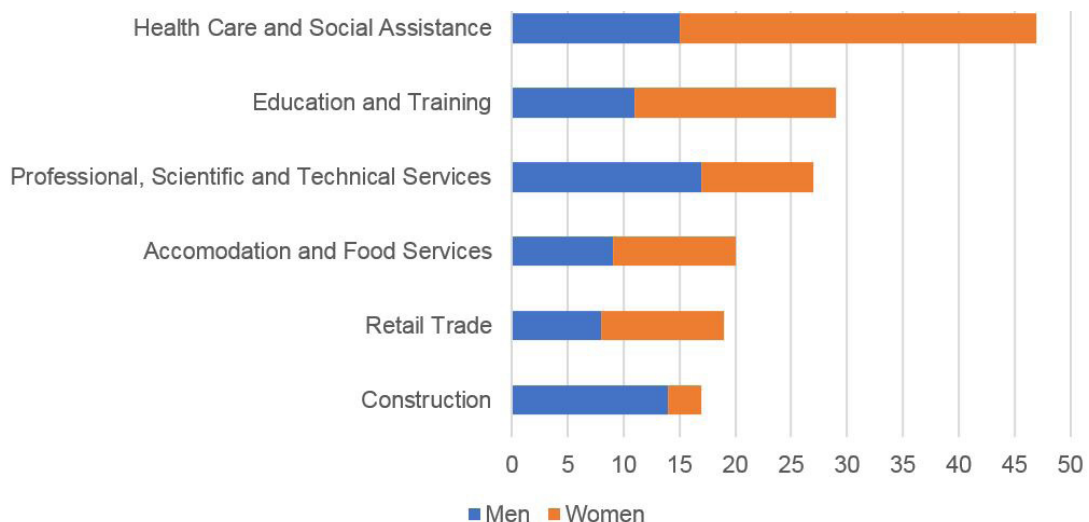


The health care and social assistance industry was the largest employer of Guatemalan women whereas the professional, scientific and technical services industry was the largest employer of Guatemalan men.

Education

Over a third (35.7%) of Australia's Guatemalan-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.

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



Contemporary migration

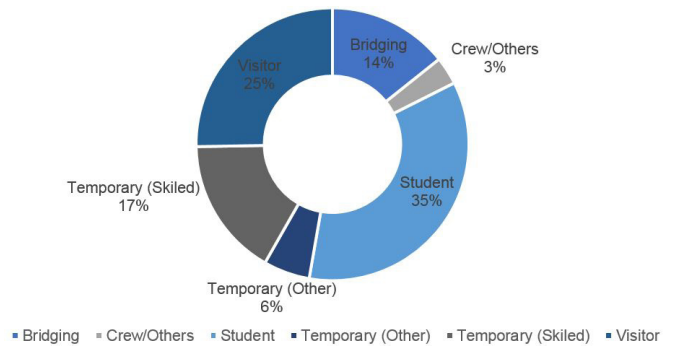
The number of Guatemalan migrants in Australia on temporary visas has seen a slight increase from 51 in 2014 to 91 in 2019. The main types of temporary visas are bridging visas and student visas. The number of Guatemalans on student visas has fluctuated, starting at 31 in 2014, dropping to 11 at the end of 2016 and returning to 32 in 2019. The number of Guatemalans on bridging visas has increased from just five in 2014 to 13 in 2019.

Identity and community

The Australian Census captures data from both people born in Guatemala who have migrated to Australia (known as the First Generation) and those who have one or both parents born in Guatemala (Second Generation). In the 2016 Census, 69.6% of Australia's Guatemalan-born population were Australian citizens. As a bilingual population, 71.2% of First Generation Guatemalans in Australia speak Spanish at home.

In 2016, the total size of the Second Generation Guatemalan population in Australia was 251 persons. The largest group was those aged zero to four years, totalling 77 persons. There were 186 Second Generation persons aged under 20 and 50 persons aged from 20 to 39 years.

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



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 297 persons who identified in the 2016 Census as having Mayan ancestry of whom 2.7% had both parents born in Australia and 7.4% had one parent born in Australia.

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

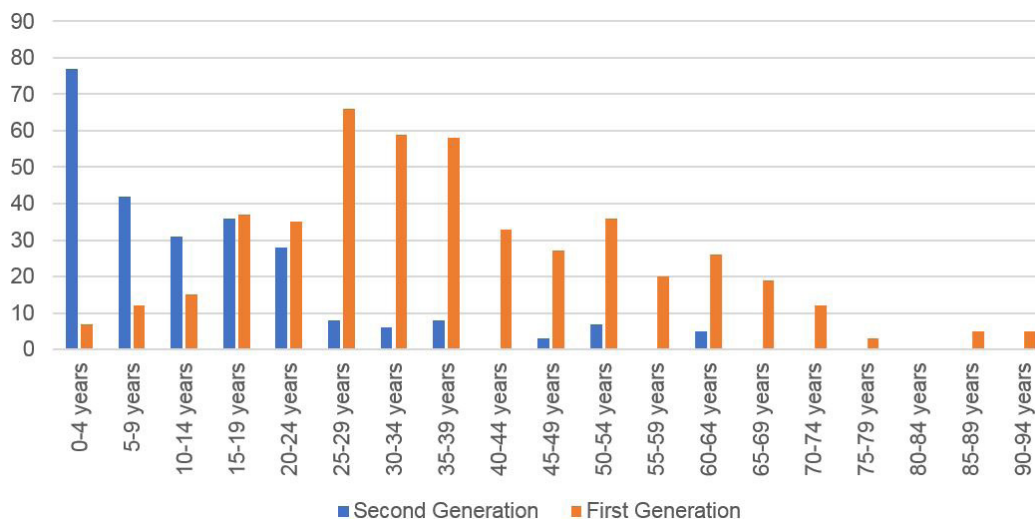
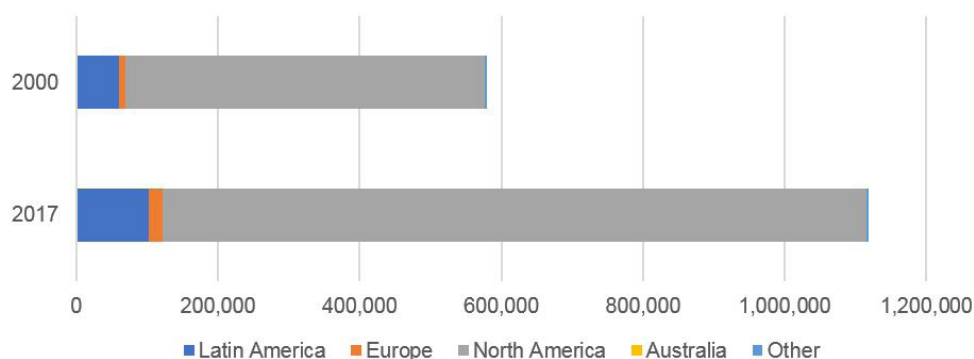


Figure 7. Global distribution of Guatemalan migrants in 2000 and 2017



Global connections

Recent migration to Australia from Guatemala 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 Guatemala in 2017 was 16.9 million persons. Another 1,117,355 Guatemalans are estimated to be living outside their country of birth. Of this diaspora:

- > 102,104 Guatemalan-born migrants were resident in Latin America
- > 20,048 Guatemalan-born migrants were resident in Europe
- > 993,275 Guatemalan-born migrants were resident in North America

The number of Guatemalan migrants has increased by 93.1% between 2000 and 2017. The geographic distribution of the Guatemalan diaspora has remained relatively unchanged. North America hosts the vast majority of the Guatemalan diaspora (89% in 2017).

According to the World Bank, remittances to Guatemala totalled US\$8.5 billion in 2017, with US\$4 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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