



# Migration from Peru and the dynamics of integration

## Summary

- > The Peruvian-born population is the fifth largest migrant group from Latin America resident in Australia. Over the last ten years, Peruvians have moved from the seventh largest migrant group from Latin America to the fifth largest.
- > In 2018 there were an estimated 12,110 Peruvian-born residents of Australia, representing an increase of 103.9% since 2001.
- > In 2019 there are 2,423 Peruvian migrants on temporary visas in Australia.
- > 60.1% of Australia's Peruvian-born population resides in New South Wales, followed by 14.6% in Victoria.

## Dynamics of migration

### History of migration to Australia

The Peruvian presence in Australia can be traced back to the 1891 Colonial Census, which recorded 26 Peruvians in Australia. In 1971 there were 570 Peruvian-born residents in Australia. During the early 1970s the Australian Government promoted assisted migration in Peru, including to young Peruvian women seeking to emigrate. By 1986 there were 2,323 Peruvian-born residents in Australia, representing the fourth largest migrant group from Latin America at that time. The largest period of net Peruvian migration occurred from 2000 to 2009, peaking in 2008 with 565 Peruvian arrivals.

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

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

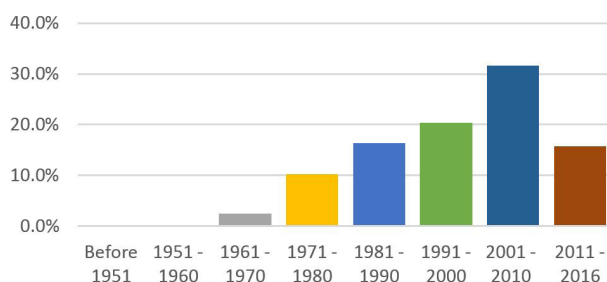
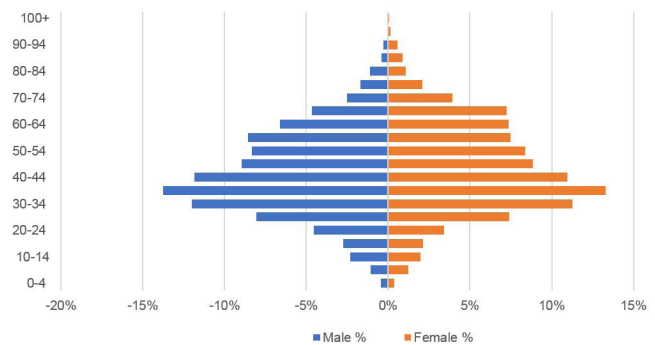


Figure 2. Peruvian-born population of Australia by age and sex, 2016



died. Almost a third (30.7%) of Peruvians living in Australia arrived between 2001 and 2010. Two-thirds (66.9%) of the Peruvian-born population arrived in Australia after 1990. Approximately 15.8% of Peruvians residing in Australia in 2016 arrived after 2010.

### Demographic composition

The median age of the Peruvian-born population of Australia was 42, whereas the median age of the Australian population was 38 in 2016. Almost a quarter (24.9%) of the Peruvian-born population was between the ages of 35 and 44 years. The largest age group for both Peruvian men and women was the 35 to 39 years age group. Among the Peruvian-born population, 13.7% were over 65 years old and 3.6% were under 15 years old.

The Peruvian population in Australia had one of the largest gender imbalances among the Latin American migrant groups. Of the total Peruvian-born population of Australia



43.1% were men and 56.9% were women. The sex ratio was 75.7 males per 100 females, which compared to a sex ratio of 97.2 for the total Australian population.

### Geography of settlement

In 2016, 59.8% of Peruvian migrants lived in New South Wales (NSW). Of these, 93.6% resided in greater Sydney. The second leading state of residence was Victoria, where 14.8% of Peruvian migrants lived. Of these, 93.4% were located in greater Melbourne.

Australia-wide, the most popular areas for residence were Smithfield, Wetherill Park, Mascot, Eastlakes and Ashfield in NSW.

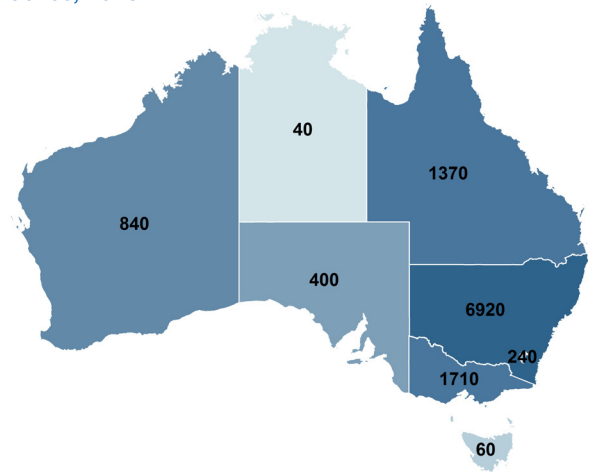
The distribution of Peruvian migrants across Australia has changed over time. NSW hosts the majority, however its share of Australia's Peruvian-born population has declined from 70.2% in 2001 to 59.8% in 2016. There has been small increases in the proportion of Peruvian migrants residing in Queensland, Western Australia and Victoria.

### Pathways to integration

#### Economic impact

The 2016 Census recorded that the health care and social assistance industry was the largest employer of Peruvian migrants, comprising 15.6% of all Peruvian workers. Of this workforce, 68.6% were women.

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



This was the largest industry-employer of Peruvian females representing 20.5% of all working women.

The second and third largest employers of Peruvian migrants were the administrative and support services industry (8.9%) and the professional, scientific and technical services industry (8%). Manufacturing and construction were the industries in which most Peruvian men were employed, both comprising 10.2% of the total male employment share.

In 2011, the three largest employer industries were the health care and social assistance, manufacturing and administrative and support services industry.

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



## Education

Almost two-fifths (38.7%) of Australia’s Peruvian-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 Peruvian migrant population are university educated—in 2011 the Census recorded that 35% of Australia’s Peruvian-born population had a Bachelor degree qualification or above.

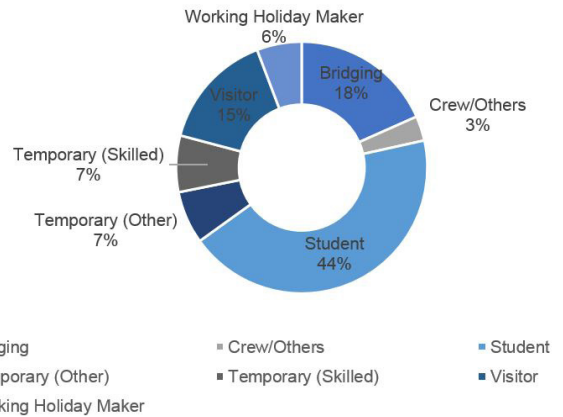
## Contemporary migration

The number of Peruvian migrants in Australia on temporary visas has increased from 1,782 in 2014 to 2,423 in 2019. The main types of temporary visas are bridging visas, student visas and working holiday maker visas. While no Peruvian migrants were on working holiday visas prior to 2017, in 2019, there were 140 Peruvian residents in Australia on this visa, accounting for 6% of Peruvians on temporary visas in Australia. The number of Peruvian migrants on bridging visas and student visas has also seen slight increases, with bridging visas increasing from 267 in 2014 to 445 in 2019, and student visas increasing from 885 to 1,055 in 2019.

## Identity and community

The Australian Census captures data from both people born in Peru who have migrated to Australia (known as the First Generation), and those who have one or both

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



parents born in Peru (Second Generation). In the 2016 Census, 71.7% of Australia’s Peruvian-born population were Australian citizens. As a bilingual population, 88.8% of First Generation Peruvians speak English well or very well, while 86.7% also speak Spanish at home.

In 2016, the total size of the Second Generation Peruvian population in Australia was 6,040 persons. The largest group was those aged zero to four years, totalling 1370 persons. There were 4,015 Second Generation persons aged under 20, and 1,727 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.

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

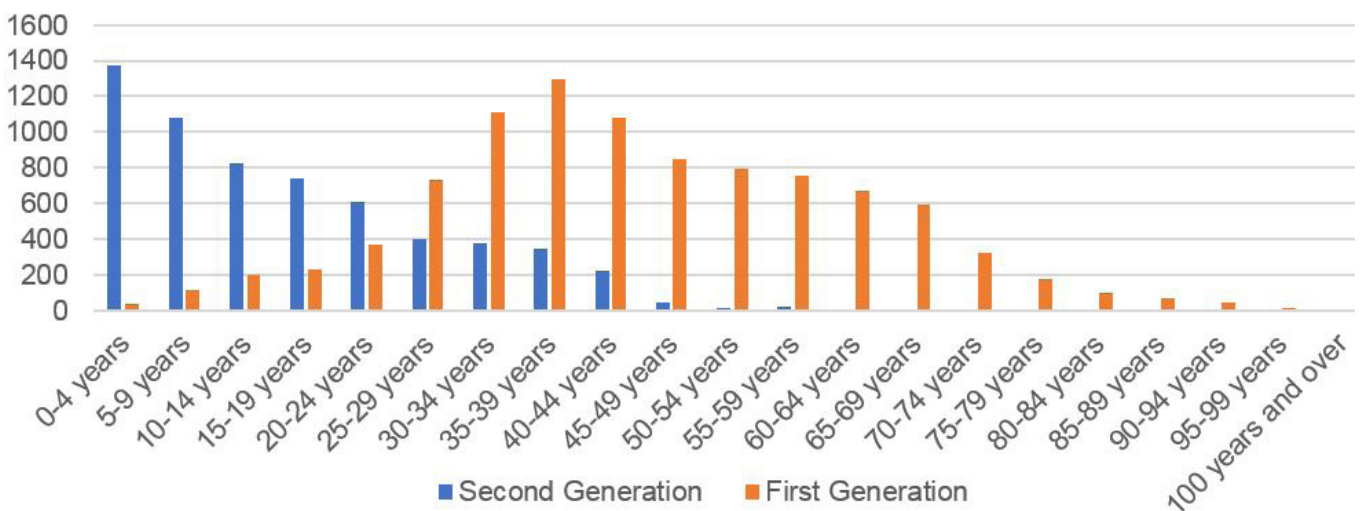
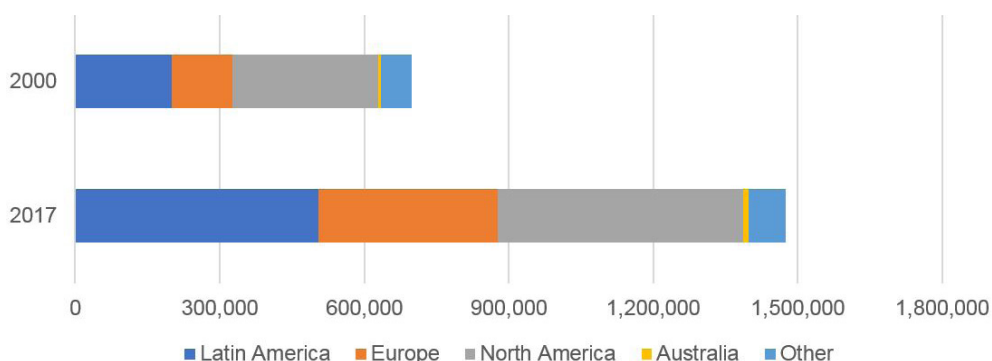


Figure 7. Global distribution of Peruvian migrants in 2000 and 2017



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 11,134 persons who identified in the 2016 Census as having Peruvian ancestry, of whom 2.9% had both parents born in Australia and 16.1% had one parent born in Australia.

## Global connections

Recent migration to Australia from Peru 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 Peru in 2017 was 32.2 million persons. Another 1,475,532 Peruvians were estimated to be living outside their country of birth. Of this diaspora:

- > 505,036 Peruvian-born migrants were resident in Latin America

- > 372,012 Peruvian-born migrants were resident in Europe
- > 509,844 Peruvian-born migrants were resident in North America

The number of Peruvian migrants has increased by 111.2% between 2000 and 2017. The geographic distribution of Peruvian migrants has shifted with North America's share of the Peruvian diaspora decreasing from 43% in 2000 to 35% in 2017. Europe has increased its proportion of Peruvian migrants to receive a quarter of the Peruvian diaspora, while a third of the diaspora were resident in Latin America.

According to the World Bank, remittances to Peru totalled US\$3 billion in 2017, with US\$23 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

*These briefings received grant funding from the Council on Australia Latin America Relations of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.*

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