



Migration from Uruguay and the dynamics of integration

Summary

- > The Uruguayan-born population is the seventh largest migrant group from Latin America resident in Australia. Over the last 20 years, Uruguayans have moved from the third largest migrant group from Latin America to the seventh largest.
- > In 2018 there were an estimated 10,650 Uruguayan-born residents of Australia, representing an increase of 1.5% since 2001.
- > In 2019 there are 484 Uruguayan migrants on temporary visas in Australia.
- > 69.4% of Australia’s Uruguayan-born population resides in New South Wales, followed by 17.5% in Victoria.

Dynamics of migration

History of migration to Australia

The Uruguayan presence in Australia can be traced back to the 1891 Colonial Census, which recorded six Uruguayan migrants in Australia. In 1971, the Uruguayan-born population of 1,880 was the second largest migrant group from Latin America in Australia. The largest period of net Uruguayan migration occurred during the 1970s, peaking in 1974 at 2,105 people. Through migration aided by the Special Humanitarian Program and later through the Family Reunion Program, the Uruguayan population in Australia increased to 9,586 by 1986 when it remained the second largest migrant group from Latin America.

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

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

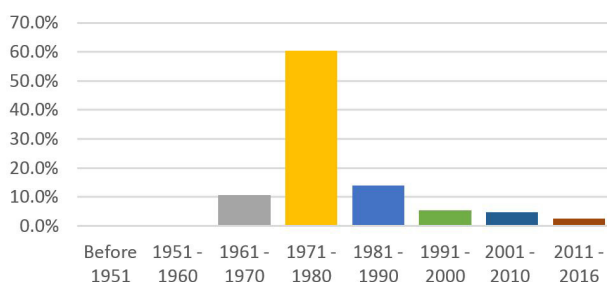
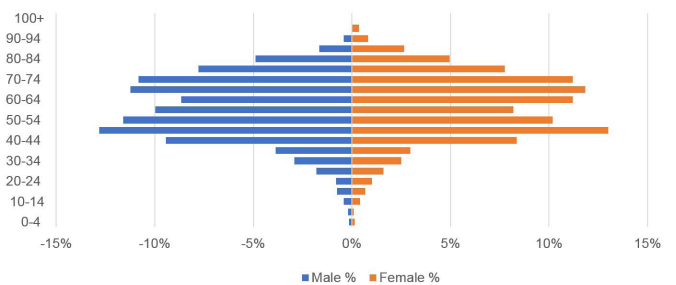


Figure 2. Uruguayan-born population of Australia by age and sex, 2016



recorded in the Census excluded migrants who resided in Australia for less than a year, re-migrated or those who died. In 2016, 60.3% of Uruguayans resident in Australia arrived between 1971 and 1980. Three-quarters (74.2%) of Uruguayans arrived between 1971 and 1990. Approximately 2.7% of Uruguayans residing in Australia in 2016 arrived after 2010.

Demographic composition

The median age of the Uruguayan-born population of Australia was 58, whereas the median age of the Australian population was 38 in 2016. Almost two-fifths (38.3%) of the Uruguayan-born population was aged 65 years and over. Among the Uruguayan-born population, 81.1% were 45 years or over. In contrast, 0.6% of Uruguayan migrants were under 15 years old.

Of the total Uruguayan-born population of Australia, 47.2% were men and 52.8% were women. The sex ratio was 89.4 males per 100 females which compared to a sex ratio of 97.2 for the total Australian population.

Geography of settlement

In 2016, 69.1% of Uruguayan migrants were living in New South Wales (NSW). Of these, 89.7% resided in greater Sydney. The second leading state of residence was Victoria, where 17.8% of Uruguayan migrants lived. Of these, 95.4% were located in greater Melbourne.

Australia-wide, the most popular areas for residence were Bossley Park, Abbotsbury, Smithfield, Wetherill Park, and Fairfield West in NSW.

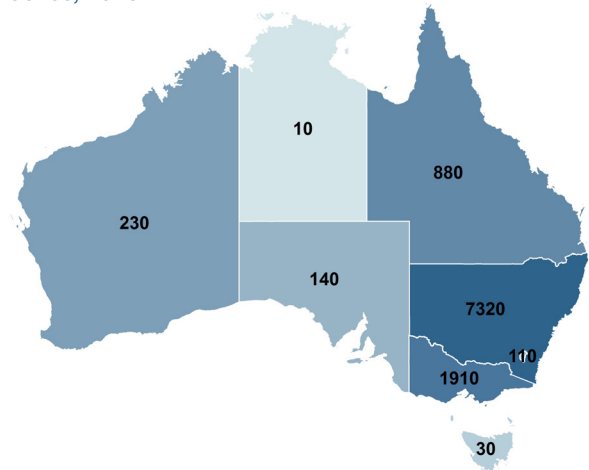
The distribution of Uruguayan migrants across Australia has remained relatively constant over time, with NSW hosting 74% of Uruguayan migrants in 1996 and 69% in 2017. However, Queensland has seen a large growth in its share of the proportion of Uruguayan migrants in the last 20 years, rising from 3.8% in 1996 to 8.3% in 2016.

Pathways to integration

Economic impact

The 2016 Census recorded that the health care and social assistance industry was the largest employer of Uruguayan migrants, employing approximately 15% of Uruguayan workers. This industry was the largest employer of

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

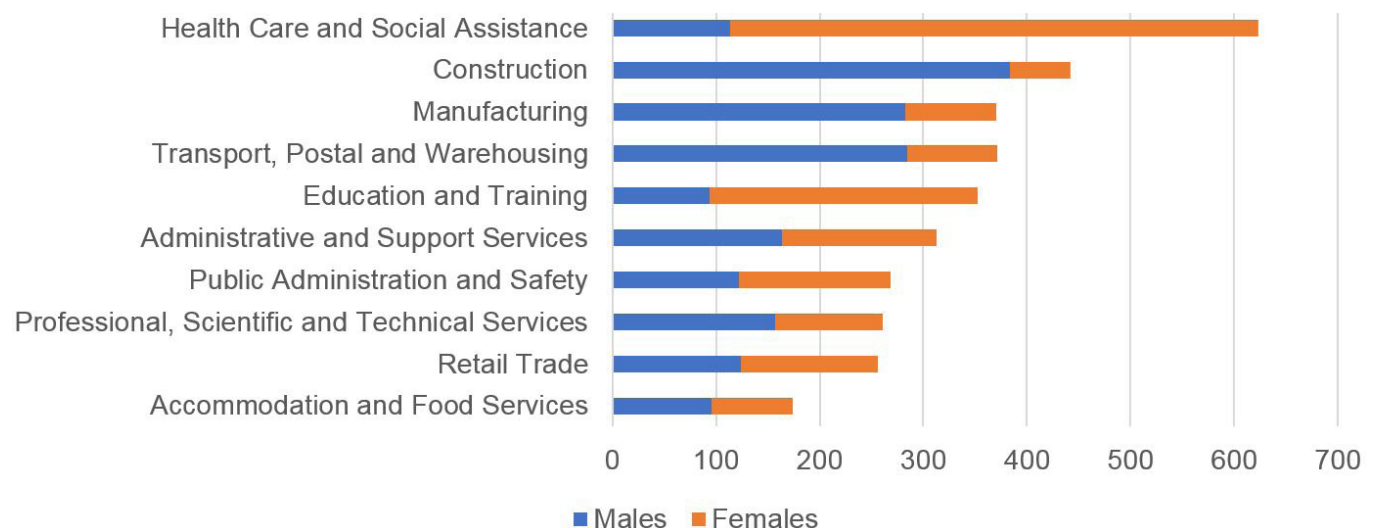


female Uruguayans, with women representing 81.7% of Uruguayan employment in the sector.

Construction was the second largest industry, followed closely by manufacturing, holding 10.7% and 9.2% shares of all Uruguayan employment in Australia respectively. Both industries were male-dominated, with the Uruguayan workforce in the construction industry comprised of 86.9% males and manufacturing comprised of 76.5% males. The construction industry was the largest employer of Uruguayan males.

In 2011, the three main industries of employment for Uruguayan workers were manufacturing, construction and the transport, postal and warehousing industry.

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



Education

The 2016 Census recorded that 13.0% of Australia's Uruguayan-born population aged 15 and over had completed a university Bachelor degree level qualification or above. This compares to 20.4% for the Australia-born population. The share of the Uruguayan migrant population that were university educated has increased slightly from the 2011 Census which recorded that 11% of Australia's Uruguayan-born population had a Bachelor degree qualification or above.

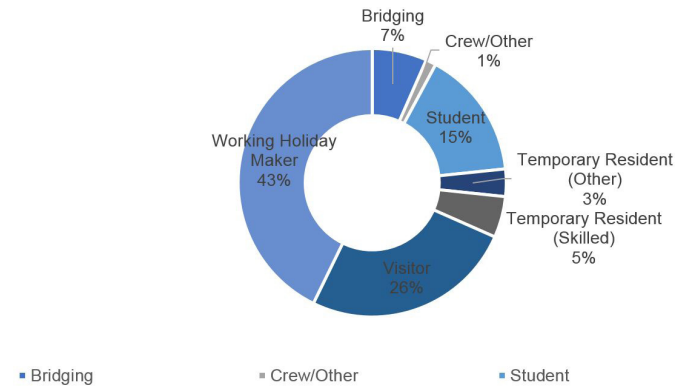
Contemporary migration

The number of Uruguayan migrants in Australia on temporary visas has increased almost five times in the last five years, from 119 in 2014 to 484 in 2019. The main types of temporary visas are bridging visas, student visas and working holiday maker visas. Of these visas, the most significant change has been the tenfold increase in Uruguayan migrants holding working holiday maker visas, up from 28 in 2014 to 207 in 2019.

Identity and community

The Australian Census captures data from both people born in Uruguay who have migrated to Australia (known as the First Generation) and those who have one or both parents born in Uruguay (Second Generation). In the 2016 Census, 91.7% of Australia's Uruguayan-born population were Australian Citizens.

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



As a bilingual population 83.5% of First Generation Uruguayans speak English well or very well, and 83.0% speak Spanish at home.

In 2016, the total size of the Second Generation Uruguayan population in Australia was 8,222 persons. The largest sub-section of Second Generation Uruguayans was comprised of those aged 20 to 24 years, totalling 1210 persons. There were 3,795 Second Generation persons aged under 20, and 3,754 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

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

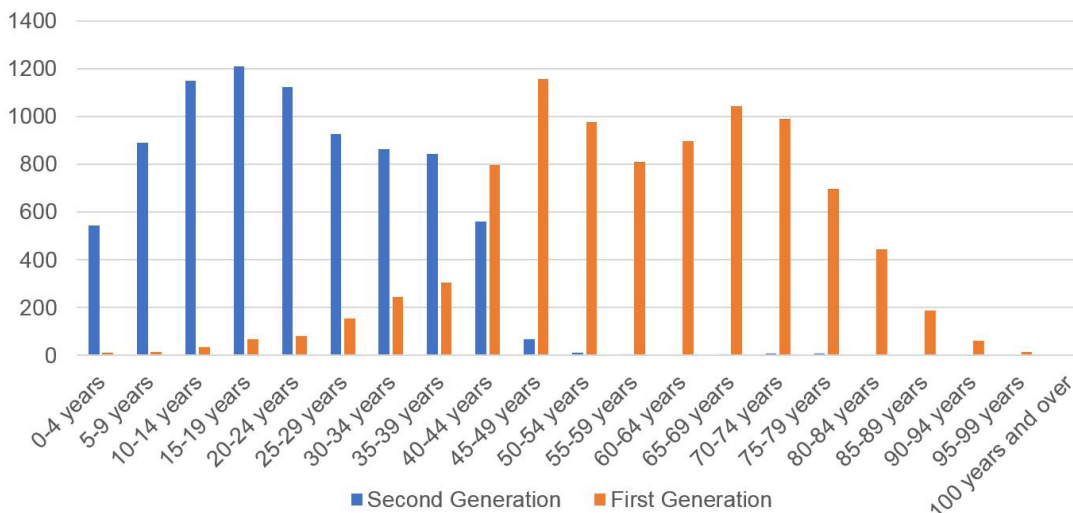
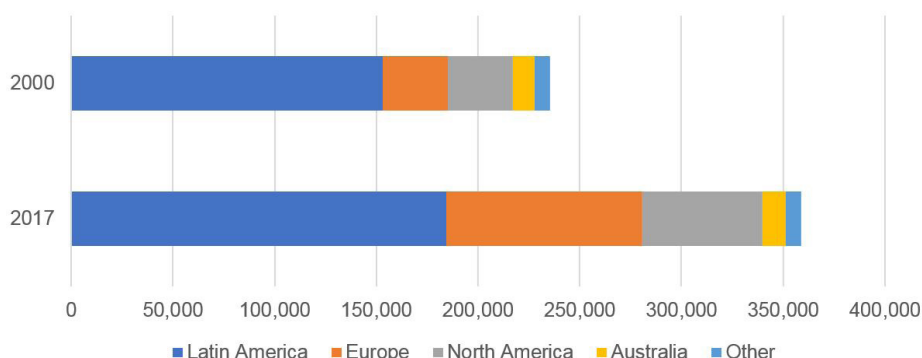


Figure 7. Global distribution of Uruguayan migrants in 2000 and 2017



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 7,838 persons who identified in the 2016 Census as having Uruguayan ancestry, of whom 6.9% had both parents born in Australia and 22.5% had one parent born in Australia.

Global connections

Recent migration to Australia from Uruguay 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 Uruguay in 2017 was 3.5 million people. Another 358,723 Uruguayans were estimated to be living outside their country of birth. Of this diaspora:

- > 184,497 Uruguayan-born migrants were resident in Latin America

- > 96,371 Uruguayan-born migrants were resident in Europe
- > 58,901 Uruguayan-born migrants were resident in North America

The number of Uruguayan migrants has increased by 52% between 2000 and 2017. The geographic distribution of the Uruguayan diaspora has also changed as Latin America has seen a significant reduction in its share of Uruguayan migrants (65% in 2000 to 52% in 2017). That shift in distribution has mostly been the result of growing migrant populations in Europe, which has seen its share of the Uruguayan diaspora increase from 14% to 27%.

According to the World Bank, remittances to Uruguay totalled US\$100 million 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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